

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

May 25, 2021

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 10:02 a.m., on May 25, 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, Jennifer Roeser, and Matt Kingsley. Also present: County Administrative Officer Clint Quilter, Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Ellis, and County Counsel Marshall Rudolph. Absent: Rick Pucci.

Pledge of Allegiance Supervisor Griffiths led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Proclamation – Memorial Day 2021 Veterans Services Officer Gordon Greene read the proclamation aloud, noting the true meaning of Memorial Day. Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve of a proclamation duly recognizing and honoring May 31, 2021 as Memorial Day. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

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

Tiffany Lau, District 3 resident, said there is still no alternate site identified for the safe parking project and two possible alternates have fallen through. She said she looked forward to the County and City working together on a solution and to the Board giving an agenda update on the topic. Staff advised that a homelessness discussion is scheduled for June 8.

Linda Chaplin of Independence asked that public, in-person Board meetings resume at the earliest possible opportunity. She said while she can appreciate the health precautions that have been taken thus far, watching the live Zoom meetings can be challenging with poor Internet connection. Staff advised that the Board is expected to return to the Board Room in July, with Zoom capabilities still intact.

County Department Reports Public Works Director Mike Errante updated the Board on the North Round Valley Road Project and the Consolidated Office Building. Supervisor Kingsley took the time to thank Deputy Public Works Director Chris Cash and his crew for responding to and quickly fixing a water leak on Main Street in Lone Pine.

Child Support Services Director Amy Weurdig reported that there was a Child Support Regional Oversight Committee last Thursday, and that, as of yesterday, Mary Lou Sowa of the Child Support Division has 28 years with the County. She said Ms. Sowa is retiring in August and will be greatly missed.

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. HHS Director Marilyn Mann reported it's expected today that Inyo County will be moved to the less restrictive Yellow Tier in the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy. She added that Public Health is in the process of rescinding the local face covering order, but that the State's order will still be in place. She said changes are expected to the State's order over the next couple weeks and the County doesn't want to have any barriers to implementing those changes locally. HHS Deputy Director-Public Health Anna Scott said 52.2% of the County population is fully vaccinated, noting that Public Health will be concentrating on getting certain groups (such as those experiencing homelessness) vaccinated in the coming weeks. Public Health Officer Dr. James Richardson discussed two issues that will be coming to the forefront: vaccine verification, possible in the form of a digital health credential, and booster vaccines, the timing of which will depend on the severity of variants. He

added that the former issue is a political one and overflow into how local businesses and venues operate.

Linda Chaplin of Independence said a vaccine passport will be of wider importance for people traveling internationally.

HHS – Two Office Clerks II-III

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Roeser for the Board to find that, consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy: A) the availability of funding for the requested position exists in a non-General Fund budget, as certified by the HHS Director and concurred with by the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller; B) where internal candidates meet the qualifications for the position, the vacancy could possibly be filled through an internal recruitment; however, as a State Merit System position, an open recruitment would be more appropriate to ensure qualified applicants apply; and C) approve the hiring of two (2) Office Clerks II/III at Range 50 (\$2,975 - \$3,619) or Range 52 (\$3,118 - \$3,788). Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

HHS-Behavioral Health – Reclassification to Behavioral Health Nurse

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to:

- A) change the Authorized Strength in HHS by reclassifying one (1) Public Health Nurse position at Range 80 in Behavioral Health as a Behavioral Health Nurse I at Range 78 or Behavioral Health Nurse II at Range 80; and
- B) consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy:
 - 1. find that the availability of funding for one (1) Behavioral Health Nurse I or II exists in the Non-General Fund Behavioral Health budget, as certified by the HHS Director and concurred with by the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller;
 - 2. find that 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) Behavioral Health Nurse 1 at Range 78 (\$5,741 - \$6,976) or a Behavioral Health Nurse II at Range 80 (\$6,018 - \$7,320), depending on qualifications.

Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

Item Pulled

Chairperson Griffiths announced that the following item was being pulled from the agenda at the request of the department:

- 17. **Public Works** - Request Board: A) declare Bowman Asphalt of Bakersfield, CA the successful bidder for 300 Tons of Plant Mixed Asphalt per Bid No. RD21-05; and B) authorize the purchase of Three Hundred (300) Tons of Plant Mixed Asphalt from Bowman Asphalt of Bakersfield, CA in an amount not to exceed \$50,971.50.

Clerk of the Board – BP Cemetery District Appointments

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to reappoint Ms. Melinda DeCoster to a four-year term on the Big Pine Cemetery Board of Trustees ending June 15, 2025 and Ms. Rosemarie Todd to a four-year term on the Big Pine Cemetery Board of Trustees ending June 30, 2022. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

CAO-Economic Development – Ferguson Group Contract Amendment 1

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract between The Ferguson Group, LLC and County of Inyo for provision of Federal Advocacy Services, extending the term from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2022 in an amount not to exceed \$101,000, contingent upon the Board's approval of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

CAO-Purchasing – Hanigan Company Print Bid

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to award Bid No. 2021-07 - Print Bid to The Hanigan Company, Inc. and authorize purchase orders to be approved for various County Departments to order printing from this bid for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, Fiscal Year 2022-2023, Fiscal Year 2023-2024 with the option to extend the bid for an additional two fiscal years. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

Recycling & Waste Management – Waste Management

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve the contract with Waste Management of California, Inc. for waste hauling services from the community of Homewood Canyon, in an amount not to exceed \$66,765.02 for the period of July 1, 2021

<i>of CA Contract</i>	through June 30, 2024, subject to the Board's adoption of future County budgets, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Pucci absent.
<i>Recycling & Waste Management – Pahrump Valley Disposal Sole-Source Contract</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Pahrump Valley Disposal of Pahrump, NV as a sole-source provider of waste hauling services from the communities of Tecopa, Shoshone, Charleston View, Furnace Creek, and Death Valley Junction to Pahrump, Nevada Waste Disposal Facility, in an amount not to exceed \$1,175,078.09 for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 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 4-0, with Supervisor Pucci absent.
<i>HHS-Behavioral Health – Dr. Goshgarian Contract</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Dr. Anne Goshgarian of Bishop, CA to serve as the Health and Human Services Substance Use Disorder Medical Director in an amount not to exceed \$21,000 for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, contingent upon the Board's approval of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Pucci absent.
<i>Public Works – VSS Emultech Bid Award</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to declare VSS Emultech of Bakersfield, CA the successful bidder for Asphaltic Emulsion per Bid RD21-04: and B) authorize the purchase of thirty-two (32) 280-gallon capacity totes of SS-1H Asphaltic Emulsion from VSS Emultech of Bakersfield, CA in an amount not to exceed \$54,081.70. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Pucci absent.
<i>Public Works – Seal Master Bid Award</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to declare Seal Master of Bakersfield, CA the successful bidder for Crack Seal Material and enter into six-month rental agreement for crack sealing kettle from Seal Master of Bakersfield, CA per Bid No. RD21-06; and B) authorize the purchase of 60,000 pounds of Crack Seal Material and a six-month kettle rental from Seal Master of Bakersfield, CA in an amount not to exceed \$60,124.50. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Pucci absent.
<i>CAO-Advertising County Resources – Film Commissioner Contract</i>	<p>The Board was being asked to approve a contract between Christopher Langley and the County of Inyo for provision of Film Commissioner services, for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$109,400 (Year 1 = \$37,800; Year 2 = \$35,800; Year 3 = \$35,800). Supervisor Kingsley asked that the agenda item be pulled from the Consent Agenda to Departmental for discussion. He said he believes a one-year contract is more appropriate, and the Film Commissioner agrees. Supervisor Kingsley said this will allow the Board to revisit the role and responsibilities of the Film Commissioner going forward. Supervisor Roeser agreed, saying a whole discussion of the bigger picture of the County's Advertising County Resources program is warranted through a Board workshop and presentations from Langley. CAO Quilter said it might be wise not to get tied into a three-year contract considering changes within the film industry and the retirement of the staff member who is most engaged with the Advertising County Resources program.</p> <p>Supervisor Totheroh suggested postponing approval of the contract until additional information was available. He then asked for clarification as to the contract amount Supervisor Kingsley was proposing for the single year, since different amounts were listed on the agenda for years 1 and 2-3. Langley said he was in agreement with one year, and only signed the three-year contract because he needed to get paperwork back to the Assistant Clerk of the Board to make today's agenda. Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve a contract between Christopher Langley and the County of Inyo for provision of Film Commissioner services, for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 in an amount not to exceed \$37,800, contingent upon the Board's approval of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Pucci absent. Chairperson Griffiths commented that it is unusual for Board members to negotiate contracts outside of the normal avenues, but suggested that discussion could come later.</p>
<i>CAO-Advertising County Resources –</i>	The Board accepted the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Written Report from Inyo County Film Commissioner Chris Langley.

*Film Commissioner
Annual Report*

*Planning – CRMP
Comment Letter*

The Board received a presentation from staff regarding the scoping period for the environmental evaluation of a Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP) for the Amargosa Wild and Scenic River. Supervisor Kingsley suggested the following changes: adding the phrase “in Inyo County” to the second sentence of the last paragraph on page 1, and adding a paragraph that recommends the BLM also consult with the State of the Basin Report 2020 when evaluating groundwater issues. Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve and authorize the Chairperson to sign a letter commenting on the CRMP, with the recommended changes. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

*Water Department –
Direction for Standing
Committee Reps*

Water Director Dr. Aaron Steinwand sought direction from the Board for the County's Standing Committee representatives in advance of the meeting of the Inyo County/Los Angeles Standing Committee scheduled for May 26, 2021. Dr. Steinwand reviewed the agenda and the items to be discussed. Sally Manning of Big Pine informed the Board that the Big Pine Paiute Tribe just sent a letter to LADWP commenting on its pumping program for 2021-2022, noting that the County previously sent a similar letter that LADWP apparently didn't acknowledge. She wanted to know when the County will do something about LADWP continuing to pump more water than is appropriate, and suggested that if LADWP or the County is looking for a tradeoff for the McNally Ponds Enhancement/Mitigation project that has not lived up to expectations, there are several projects in the Big Pine area that have been forgotten or not yet started.

*Sheriff – Patrol
Service Operational
& Financial Plan*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and Supervisor Totheroh to ratify and approve the 2021 Operational and Financial Plan between the County of Inyo and USDA Forest Service, Inyo National Forest for the provision of Patrol Service for a funding amount up to \$12,000 for the period of October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the Sheriff or designee to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

*HHS – Travel Trailers
MOUs*

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and Supervisor Roeser to: A) approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to transfer ownership of state-provided trailers between the City of Los Angeles, Inyo County, and the Inyo Mono Advocates for Community Action (IMACA) for homelessness relief and authorize the HHS Director to sign; and B) approve the MOU between IMACA and the County of Inyo regarding the temporary storage of travel trailers through May 31, 2022 and authorize the HHS Director to sign. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

*HHS-Public Health &
Prevention – Denise
Marley Contract*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to ratify and approve the agreement between the County of Inyo and Denise Marley of La Quinta, CA for compensation of services satisfactorily rendered to support Graphic Design & Marketing Services for Public Health & Prevention/COVID-19 Response activities as part of the ELC 2 & ELC Expansion Grant in Inyo County, in the amount of \$150,000 for the period of May 15, 2021 through June 30, 2023, contingent upon the approval of future budgets, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

*Probation – BSCC
Agreement/Reso #
2021-29*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to: A) ratify and approve the agreement between the County of Inyo and Board of State Community Corrections (BSCC) for the Proposition 64 Public Health and Safety Grant for the period of May 1, 2021 through October 31, 2024, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained; and B) approve Resolution No. 2021-29 authorizing the Inyo County Assistant CAO to execute agreements with the BSCC on behalf of the County of Inyo for the Proposition 64 Public Health and Safety Grant awarded April 8, 2021. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

*Public Works –
Spiess Construction
Payment*

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to ratify and approve payment to Spiess Construction Inc. of Santa Maria, CA in the amount of \$237,900 for South Lake Road Emergency Repair Work. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

Clerk of the Board – Approval of Minutes Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve the minutes of the regular Board of Supervisors meeting of May 18, 2021. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

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

Linda Chaplin of Independence referenced the earlier discussion about wildlife and birds in relation to the Standing Committee meeting, noting there are also wildlife and native birds within the communities themselves.

Board Member and Staff Reports Supervisor Totheroh reported attending an Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group on Monday and having a coordination meeting with the Bishop Tribe this Thursday, and also noted that two potential alternate sites for the safe parking project were identified but IMACA received no response from the property owners.

Supervisor Roeser reported attending a lot of meetings, including a meeting of the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals.

Supervisor Kingsley reported meetings with constituents and with the Rural County Representatives of California, adding he would be traveling to an RCRC-sponsored meeting in Sonora this afternoon.

Chairperson Griffiths reported attending meetings on the veterans housing project, and of the Easter Sierra Child Support Regional Oversight Committee and Bishop City Council, and will be attended a dispersed camping town forum tonight, an Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership and IMACA meetings on Thursday, and will be doing volunteer shifts at Mule Days.

Adjournment Chairperson Griffiths adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 1, 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