

MINUTES

County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

SPECIAL MEETING

February 27, 2012

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in special session at the hour of 9:00 a.m., on Monday, February 27, 2012, at the County Facility at 207 W. South Street, in Bishop, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Marty Fortney presiding, Linda Arcularius, Susan Cash, Rick Pucci, and Richard Cervantes. Supervisor Rick Pucci led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order. The County Administrator made brief introductory remarks welcoming the members of the public that were in attendance and providing additional information regarding the upcoming tour. He explained that it is expected that the Board will discuss office functionality, departmental services, and office space needs with respect to each office with representatives of the various Departments. Members of the public who traveled to each of the locations with the Board were Mr. Richard Distle, Mr. Lloyd Wilson, Mr. Jerry Gabriel and Ms. Mary Roper. They actively interacted with questions at each location with the question "how many staff are at this location and is the space sufficient" asked at each location, and answered that most of the office space is insufficient to house staff and provide the client services that are required by the Department or program. Mr. Jon Jones, Facilities Manager was available at each location and provided information on the size of the facilities and the condition of the facilities, which in every instance was in varying rates of need from normal maintenance to extensive rehabilitation. Supervisor Fortney also noted the lack of smoke detectors and fire plans and exits at many of the locations.

207 W. South Street

- Public Comment The Chairperson announced the public comment period. Supervisor Richard Cervantes asked how many people from the public were in attendance. Six people raised their hands. Supervisor Cervantes went on to reiterate his position of opposition for a new County consolidated office building in the Bishop area.
- HHS/Health Serv. Ms. Jean Turner, Director of Health and Human Services provided opening remarks for the tour of the public health offices. Ms. Tamara Cohen, Clinical Services Directed, led the tour of the Public Health Services offices. Some of the items of concern were confidentiality in light of stringent privacy laws, safety concerns because of space size, poor lab conditions. Mr. Jon Jones, Facilities Supervisor, provided information on the physical condition of the building, noting many of the challenges, including keeping heating and cooling in working order, postponed general maintenance, lack of restrooms. Mr. Richard Distle, representing the Grand Jury, questioned whether the building was up to code. Members of the audience who participating in discussions were Ms. Mary Roper of Independence, and Mr. Jerry Gabriel, who queried staff on the size of the facilities, the number of staff at the location and whether the facilities were adequate.
- Environmental Health Mr. Marvin Moskowitz, Director of Environmental Health, greeted the tour members and addressed the challenges his department faces at the location. Members of the audience queried Mr. Moskowitz on the number of staff working out of the location and whether the facilities were adequate.
- Veterans Service Office Ms. Yvette Mason, a Case Manager III in the Veterans Service Office, responded to questions from the audience regarding her offices. The County Administrator noted the use of personal heating and cooling devices which affect the utilities paid by the County.
- Agricultural Commissioner Mr. George Milovich, Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures conducted a tour of his offices which included the Mosquito Abatement Program and Weed Management Program. He talked about the challenges of the space which included retail sales, and storage of pesticides for pick-up.

Farm Advisor Ms. Serena Denis, Acting Farm Advisor and UC Extension Coordinator, provided information on the space, explaining that the office is used as a training and meeting room, along with storage and the master gardener program. She said that one of the Department's she collaborates with is the Agricultural Department and it is good to have the two functions in close proximity.

Animal Control Mr. Tim Profitt, Animal Control Supervisor, provided information on the program offered out of the offices.

Building and Safety Mr. Doug Wilson, Interim Public Works Director, talked about the building and safety program. He said that the north County building permits are issued out of the South Street offices. He talked about complimenting services that are not available in the Bishop area that require applicants to travel to independence to complete the permit process.

At 10:30 a.m. the Chairperson recessed the meeting to the next location.

568A West Line Street – The Chairperson reconvened the special meeting at 10:35 a.m., with all Board Members present.

Public Comment The Chairperson announced the public comment period and there was no one from the public wishing to address the Board.

HHS-WIC Services And First Five Commission Ms. Jean Turner, Director of Health and Human Services, provided information on the services and staff that provide services from this location. She responded to questions regarding the number of staff, the number of people served, noting the challenges of the space, including sufficient space to conduct meetings and training sessions, storage and consumer access to local grocery stores, that the offices provides services to around 425 clients through appointments and walk-in services. She also responded to another question explaining that 40-60 of the clients are in south County with 275 – 375 cases being in north County depending upon the population at any given time.

At 10:55 a.m., the Chairperson recessed the meeting to the next location.

301 W. Line Street- (Bishop City Hall – Clark Wing) – The Chairperson reconvened the special meeting at 11:00 a.m., with all Board Members present.

Public Comment The Chairperson announced the public comment period and there was no one from the public wishing to address the Board.

Sheriff's Bishop Sub Station The Sheriff and Lt. Marsh provided a tour of the Bishop Sub Station, noting some of the major challenges facing the department in this location, including insufficient meeting space, overcrowding, poor conditions for processing evidence, poor ventilation, no storage, office disconnect with investigation offices which are down the hall, no secure parking for off duty vehicles, staff safety and control of public access.

At 11:20 a.m., the Chairperson recessed the meeting to the next location.

230 W. Line Street - (Bella Vous Building) – The Chairperson reconvened the special meeting at 11:25 a.m., with all Board Members present.

Public Comment The Chairperson announced the public comment period and there was no one from the public wishing to address the Board.

DA Mr. Art Maillet, District Attorney, provided information regarding his Bishop Offices. He noted insufficient offices when multiple attorneys are required in the Bishop Court, severe shortage in storage space and not enough space for investigations. The County Administrator in noting an economy of scale explained that if all of the legal offices, i.e., DA, County Counsel, Child Support Services, etc., were located in one spot, a law library at each location would not be necessary.

Child Support Ms. Susanne Rizo, Regional Director of Child Support Services, led the tour of her Department's

Services facilities. She noted the odd configuration of the facilities that made it challenging to provide client confidentiality as well as staff safety, no security with surveillance, no space to offer child care to clients. Mr. Jon Jones, Facilities Supervisor noted the extensive tenant improvements that had been made to the Bella Vous Building before it was suitable for County offices.

At 11:50 a.m., the Chairperson recessed the meeting to the next location.

162 Grove Street – The Chairperson reconvened the special meeting at 11:55 a.m., with all Board Members present.

Public Comment The Chairperson announced the public comment period and there was no one from the public wishing to address the Board.

HHS-Behavioral Hlth. Serv.-Social Serv.-Senior Services Ms. Jean Turner, Director of Health and Human Services, Dr. Gail Zweir, Behavioral Health Services Director and Ms. Marilyn Mann, Social Services and Senior Services Director, conducted a tour of the Grove Street Offices. They noted this is a maze of offices providing a myriad of services to some of the most vulnerable and fragile members of society. Items of concern were condition of building, safety for employees, confidentiality, meeting room, interview rooms, lack of space for number of clients, storage, lighting, parking, public access to restrooms, etc.

PA/PG Ms. Doris Brackney, Deputy Public Administrator/Public Guardian, showed the group the Department's office. She noted a severe lack of storage space for clients' belongings as one of the biggest challenges the Department faces.

At 1:25 p.m., the Chairperson recessed the meeting to the next location.

920 N. Main Street - (Behind the Taco Bell) – The Chairperson reconvened the special meeting at 1:30 p.m., with all Board Members present except Supervisor Cervantes.

Public Comment The Chairperson announced the public comment period and there was no one from the public wishing to address the Board.

HHS-Employment and Public Assistance The Director of the Health and Human Services Department, Ms. Jean Turner, conducted a tour of the Employment and Public Assistance Services provided at the facilities. She talked about the tenant improvements, utility bills, client confidentiality, meeting space, training space, etc.

Probation Dept. The Assistant to the Chief Probation Officer, Ms. Alisa Lembke, conducted a tour of the Probation Department services that were provided at the facility. Ms. Lembke talked about the challenges of the facility, including meeting space, interview space, confidentiality, public restroom access, client drug testing capabilities, etc.

At 1:55 p.m., the Chairperson recessed the meeting to the next location.

163 May Street – The Chairperson reconvened the special meeting at 2:00 p.m., with all Board Members present except Supervisor Cervantes

Public Comment The Chairperson announced the public comment period and there was no one from the public wishing to address the Board.

HHS-Prev. Prog. Admin. & Fiscal Services Ms. Jean Turner, Director of Health and Human Services, showed the group her offices that conduct administrative and fiscal services for the Department as well as house the Prevention Programs. She explained how the space worked for her Department and noted that the prevention offices need to be housed closer to other client services. She also noted the lack of privacy, department confidentiality and meeting space as other challenges.

County Counsel Mr. Randy Keller, County Counsel, showed the group his Department's offices in the facility. He noted tight quarters for housing support staff and storage as issues.

CAO-Integ. Waste-
Motor Pool-Parks &
Rec.-Risk Mgm.
Personnel

The County Administrator, Mr. Kevin Carunchio, showed the group the offices of his Division that are located at the facility, including lack of meeting space and office space. The meeting met upstairs in the Conference Room, where the County Administrator made closing remarks and invited everyone to attend the upcoming March 13, 2012 Board of Supervisors Meeting where the non-binding term sheet (the next phase of the process) would be considered by the Board. He explained that this would be when the in-depth fiscal analysis and comparisons would be presented.

Adjourned

The Chairperson adjourned the special meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisor

*Attest: KEVIN D. CARUNCHIO
Clerk of the Board*

by: _____
Patricia Gunsolley, Assistant