

MINUTES

County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

January 19, 2016

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 8:33 a.m., on Tuesday, January 19, 2016, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Jeff Griffiths, presiding, Dan Totheroh, Rick Pucci, Mark Tillemans and Matt Kingsley.

- Public Comment The Chairperson announced the public comment period and there was no one from the public wishing to address the Board.
- Closed Session The Chairperson recessed open session to convene in closed session at 8:33 a.m., with all Board Members present, to discuss and take action as appropriate on Agenda Items No. 2. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(2)** – significant exposure to potential litigation (one case). Facts and Circumstances: Subpoena for Investigation Records; No. 3. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION [Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(4)]** – discussion with legal counsel regarding potential initiation of litigation (two cases.); No. 4. **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR [Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6]** - Instructions to Negotiators re: wages, salaries and benefits - Employee Organization: ICEA - Negotiators - County Administrative Officer, Kevin Carunchio, Assistant County Administrator, Rick Benson, Deputy Personnel Director, Sue Dishion, Information Services Director, Brandon Shults, County Counsel Marshall Rudolph, and Assistant County Counsel John Vallejo; No. 5. **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR [Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6]** - Instructions to Negotiators re: wages, salaries and benefits - Employee Organization: Inyo County Peace Officers Association (ICPPOA) – Negotiators - County Administrative Officer, Kevin Carunchio, Assistant County Administrator, Rick Benson, Deputy Personnel Director, Sue Dishion, Information Services Director, Brandon Shults, County Counsel Marshall Rudolph, and Assistant County Counsel John Vallejo; and No. 6. **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR [Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6]** - Instructions to Negotiators re: wages, salaries and benefits - Employee Organization: Law Enforcement Administrators' Association (LEAA) - Negotiators: - County Administrative Officer, Kevin Carunchio, Assistant County Administrator, Rick Benson, Deputy Personnel Director, Sue Dishion, Information Services Director, Brandon Shults, County Counsel Marshall Rudolph, and Assistant County Counsel John Vallejo.
- Recess/
Reconvene The Chairperson recessed closed session at 10:00 a.m., to reconvene in open session at 10:10 a.m., with all Board Members present.
- Pledge The County Administrator, Kevin Carunchio, led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Report on Closed
Session County Counsel reported there were no items discussed in closed session which are required by law to be reported on in open session.
- Public Comment The Chairperson announced the second public comment period and there was no one from the public wishing to address the Board.
- County Department
Reports The Chairperson announced the County Department Report period. Susanne Rizo, Child Support Services Director, updated the Board on the Tribal Tanf Program. She said that the tribes are no longer going to be required to use CCS for enforcement of child support orders. She said that Tribal Tanf cases account for 13% of the Department's cases and told the Board she would schedule a workshop to provide more detail on the situation.

District/Independence Cemetery District Board Appointment	Moved by Supervisor Tillemans and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to re-appoint Frieda LaCues to the Independence Cemetery District Board of Trustees, to complete a four-year term ending October 8, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.
District/Pioneer Cemetery District Board Appointment	Moved by Supervisor Tillemans and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to re-appoint Cathy Diane Corsaro to the Pioneer Cemetery District Board of Trustees to complete a four-year term ending December 27, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.
E. Health/IDEXX Water Lab Supplies P.O.	Moved by Supervisor Tillemans and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to declare IDEXX Laboratories, Inc., as a sole-source provider of certain water laboratory supplies for the period of January 19, 2016 through June 30, 2016 and approve the purchase of water testing supplies from IDEXX in an amount not to exceed \$10,000. Motion carried unanimously.
Resol. #2016-02/ Accepting B.P. Town Hall Roof Repair Project	On a motion by Supervisor Tillemans and a second by Supervisor Kingsley, Resolution No. 2016-02 was approved accepting the improvements for the Big Pine Town Hall Building Roof Repair Project and authorize the Department to record the Notice of Completion for the Project: motion unanimously passed and adopted.
Resol. #2016-03/L.P. Substation Resurface Project	On a motion by Supervisor Tillemans and a second by Supervisor Kingsley, Resolution No. 2016-03 was approved accepting the improvements for the Lone Pine Substation Resurfacing Project and authorize the Department to record the Notice of Completion for the Project: motion unanimously passed and adopted.
BofS/Support Letter for AB 1558 Five New Liquor Licenses	Supervisor Kingsley provided additional information and further justification for a letter of support for AB 1558 (Mathis). Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve a letter to Assemblyman Devon Mathis supporting AB 1558 (Mathis) to increase the number of new liquor licenses available in Inyo County by five; and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.
CAO/Film Commissioner Mid-Year Report	Chris Langle, Inyo County Film Commissioner made his FY 2015-2016 Mid-Year Film Commissioner Report to the Board. He provided information concerning specific shoots that have taken place, and talked about filming trends in the area.
CAO-Adv. Co. Res./ Community Sponsorship Grant Awards	The Board and staff had a lengthy and detailed discussion regarding the recommendations for award of funding for Community Project Sponsorship Program Grant (CPSPG) recipients recommended by the Grant Review Panel. The Board heard from Kathleen New of the Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce who said that because the recommendation for the Inyo Visitor's Guide was less than requested the Chamber had explored avenues to possibly reduce the quality of the publication in order to save money. She said that two of the Chamber's Board Members were going to donate the money needed to cover the difference in order to not sacrifice the quality of the publication. Mr. Mike Prather addressed the Board to provide additional information regarding the Owens Lake Bird Festival. The Board discussed the possibility of finding other sources to fund projects like the Visitor's Guide and the High School State Rodeo Finals, explaining that these are unique projects that should not have to compete local events for funding. The County Administrator confirmed that the County has a \$15,000 budget line item in this year's budget for the State Rodeo Finals. He said this is in addition of what the Chamber is awarded for their application for grant funds for the event. Supervisor Griffiths was very concerned that the Bishop Chamber of Commerce's requests were evaluated differently because the Panel took into consideration the BTID which is an additional tourism tax collected from motel owners which is dedicated to the Bishop Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Bureau. Supervisor Griffiths said that he did not think the Bishop Chamber should be penalized because they have successfully found a way to generate an alternative revenue source. The Board and staff continued to talk about the grant projects and the recommendations for funding, with the Board asking for a future discussion and consideration of a change in the process and criteria for the evaluation and prioritization of CPSPG projects. Supervisor Tillemans suggested that the funding recommendations be tweaked just slightly in order to provide the needed funds for the Inyo Visitors Guide Project. He explained that this publication is produced for the benefit of the entire County and not for the benefit of a specific area, group or organization such as the other events.

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor to approve 15 Community Project Sponsorship Program Grant awards for 2015-2016 recommended by the Community Project Sponsorship Program Grant Review Panel, in amounts as recommended by the Panel for a total amount of \$70,000; and B) authorize the County Administrator to sign the Contracts with the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Community Project Sponsorship Grant Program recipients, in the amounts approved by your Board, contingent upon the appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried on a four-to-one vote, with Supervisors Tothorh, Griffiths, Pucci and Kingsley voting yes and with Supervisor Tillemans voting no.

HHS-EMS/Emergency Response Equipment and Training Funds Contract Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to ratify and approve the Amendments to Contracts between the County of Inyo and the following for the purchase of emergency response equipment and training in the amounts listed, for a total amount not to exceed \$57,382 for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016; and authorize the Chairperson to sign: A) Independence Volunteer Fire Department \$10,900; B) Olancha Cartago Fire Department \$11,945; C) Lone Pine Volunteer Fire Department \$12,237.80; D) Big Pine Fire Protection District \$11,947.40; and E) Southern Inyo Fire Protection District \$10,351.80. Motion carried unanimously.

Probation/Caseload-PRO Contract Approval Moved by Supervisor Tillemans and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to ratify and approve the Contract between the County of Inyo and CaseloadPRO to provide professional services for an on-line case management system, for the period of January 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, in an amount not to exceed \$42,800, contingent upon the Board's adoption of future budgets; and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

Planning/RETI 2.0 Update The Planning staff provided a presentation regarding the status of the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI) 2.0. The discussion included a lengthy conversation about transmission in the Owens Valley and the local government's ability to participate in the decision and/or recoup costs associated with transmission. Earl Wilson, Lone Pine Resident, addressed the Board to oppose increased transmission through the County.

Planning/Forest Plan Update The Planning director updated the Board on coordination with Forest Service staff regarding the Inyo National Forest Plan Update/Revision, since his last update. He went on to provide information on the recent proposals regarding Wilderness, Species of Conservation Concern, and Wild and Scenic River Eligibility. He and the Board discussed that the graphics on the new alternatives is poor and much of the time incorrect or insufficient, that buffers and cherry stem roads are hard to determine and should be better defined, that the Species of Concern list is long and the impacts for habitat designation are not definitive, that Wild and Scenic inventory does not delineate recreational protections or impacts to grazing allotments, and that the County had supported the Forest Service's initial process for establishing acceptable alternatives which had been poorly expanded as a result of a threat of litigation to the most recent iteration that is now being considered. The Board went on to discuss several of the alternatives. The Board heard from the following members of the public: Mike Johnston, Bishop Area Resident, who provided a handout on the wilderness designations, who pointed out many of the apparent errors on the maps, and who suggested that more wilderness designations in Inyo County is excessive and should not be supported; Sam Dean, Representing AAPL, said that the Inyo Forest has more than 49% of its land designated wilderness and opposed any further wilderness designations in the County; Ben Wickham of the Friends of the Inyo, who read a prepared statement from Jora Fogg commenting that the expansion of the proposed alternatives should be discussed before the release of the Draft EIR; Fran Hunt of the Sierra Club who supported the increased number of alternatives and suggested the Board send a site specific comment letter; John McVicker who opposed new wilderness designations in the Inyo Forest; Pat Woods, a retired Fish and Game Warden, who provided written comments addressing specific areas of concern and who commented on the inaccuracies of the documents and information, saying that the County should request accurate data so better decisions can be made, he also went on to talk about his concerns that wilderness designations diminish the ability of the agencies to manage fire fuels and increase the danger of wild fires; Greg Weirick, opposed increased wilderness designations, stressed the need to protect access to and use of mineralized areas, and asked the Board to reject the entire procedure; Mike Prather of Friends of the Inyo supported the letter by Jora Fogg and the comments made by Fran Hunt; Earl Wilson who supported protection of access to public

lands, opposed more wilderness designations in Inyo County, and cautioned the Board on Wild and Scenic designations that could negatively impact grazing allotments; Jerry Gabriel submitted a letter from Mike Nolan who opposed additional wilderness designations and went on to comment that he too opposed more wilderness designations. The Board and staff continued to discuss the recent proposals regarding Wilderness, Species of Conservation Concern, and Wild and Scenic River Eligibility with the Board directing staff to revise the draft correspondence to reflect those topics and areas of concern addressed in today's discussion, including correction of inaccuracies in information and mapping, mineralization protections, wild and scenic designation public access and protections for grazing allotments, and impacts of the expansion of wilderness on local economic development, and bring it back next week for the Board's further consideration.

- Planning/West Mojave Route Network Project & Draft Supplemental EIS Comments The Planning Director, Josh Hart, reviewed the previous correspondence to the Bureau of Land Management regarding the West Mojave Route Network Project and Plan Amendment Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. The Board talked about the correspondence. Earl Wilson addressed the Board to cite RS2477 issues and the need to protect access to roads. The Board Members took no action to send further correspondence on the matter.
- Emerg. Serv./D.V. Roadeater Emergency Continued Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Tillemans to continue the local emergency, The Death Valley Roadeater Emergency that resulted in flooding in the eastern portion of Inyo County during the month of August 2012, per Resolution #2012-32, as recommended by the County Administrator. Motion carried unanimously.
- Emerg. Serv./Gully Washer Emergency Continued The Public Works Director, Clint Quilter, updated the Board on the Saline Valley Road repairs saying that in order to move forward they have separated the project into two, an upper portion and lower portion. Moved by Supervisor Tillemans and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to continue the local emergency, The Gully Washer Emergency that resulted in flooding in the central, south and southeastern portion of Inyo County during the month of July, 2013, as recommended by the County Administrator. Motion carried unanimously.
- Emerg. Serv./Canyon Crusher Emergency Continued Moved by Supervisor Tillemans and seconded by Supervisor Tothoroh to continue the local emergency, The Canyon Crusher Emergency, that resulted in flooding in the portions of Inyo County during the month of August, 2013, was recommended by the County Administrator. Motion carried unanimously.
- Emerg. Serv./Land of Even Less Water Emergency Continued Moved by Supervisor Tothoroh and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to continue the local emergency, known as the "Land of EVEN Less Water Emergency" that was proclaimed as a result of extreme drought conditions that exist in the County as recommended by the County Administrator. Motion carried unanimously.
- Emerg. Serv./D.V. Down But Not Out Emergency Continued Moved by Supervisor Tothoroh and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to continue the local emergency, known as the "Death Valley Down But Not Out Emergency" that was proclaimed as a result of flooding in the central, south and southeastern portion of Inyo County during the month of October, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.
- Public Comment The Chairperson announced the final public comment period and there was no one from the public wishing to address the Board.
- Closed Session The Chairperson recessed open session at 1:55 p.m., to reconvene in closed session at 2:30 p.m., with all Board Members present to discuss and take action as appropriate on previously noted closed session items.
- Report on Closed Session The Chairperson recessed closed session at 3:00 p.m., to reconvene in open session to receive a report on closed session. County Counsel reported there were no items discussed in closed session that are required by law to be reported on in open session.

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the regular meeting at 3:00 p.m. to 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, January 26, 2016 in the Board of Supervisors Room, at the County Administrative Center, in Independence.

Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisor

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

by: _____
Patricia Gunsolley, Assistant