

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

January 10, 2017

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 9:30 a.m., on January 10, 2016, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Mark Tillemans, presiding, Dan Tothoroh, Rick Pucci, Jeff Griffiths, and Matt Kingsley. The start time was delayed from the normal hour of 8:30 a.m. due to a high-wind warning in effect for U.S. Highway 395 that morning from Pearsonville to Bishop.

PUBLIC COMMENT Chairperson Tillemans asked for public comment and there was none.

CLOSED SESSION Chairperson Tillemans recessed open session at 9:29 a.m. to convene in closed session with all Board members present to discuss the following items: No. 2 **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**. Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9 (one case); and No. 3 **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS** [Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6] – 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); Law Enforcement Administrators' Association (LEAA). Unrepresented employees: all. Agency designated representatives: 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.

OPEN SESSION Chairperson Tillemans recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 11:04 a.m. with all Board members present.

REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION County Counsel Marshall Rudolph reported that no action was taken during closed session that is required to be reported. The Board had not finished its closed session business, however, and would recess to closed session later in the meeting to continue discussions.

PLEDGE Chairperson Tillemans led the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT Chairperson Tillemans asked for public comment and there was none.

COUNTY DEPARTMENT REPORTS CAO Carunchio and representatives from the Sheriff's and Road departments gave reports on the County's response to the major storm that hit the area over the weekend. Carunchio said an interAgency storm preparedness briefing was held Friday afternoon, and while Mother Nature cooperated over the weekend, a lot of work and preparation by the County's Road Crews and Sheriff's Department helped lessen impacts around the County. He also recognized HHS Director Jean Turner for being on standby for any shelter needs for both Inyo and Mono counties. He said when the rain finally came Sunday, the County activated an Emergency Operations Center. He said there was great communication not just between County departments but with other agencies, such as LADWP. Road Maintenance Supervisor Chris Cash reported that Aspendell received an estimated 40 inches of snow over the weekend. He said he personally took over road operations in the northern end of the county while Public Works Director Clint Quilter took over operations in the southern end. He said Friday crews spent the day cleaning drains in preparation for the storm, doing assessments, and some snow plow operations in Aspendell and South Lake to make room for the anticipated additional snowfall. They also got sandbags and sand piles staged throughout the valley. Saturday the rains came, but fortunately later in the day – about 4 p.m. – which meant crews could continue working most of the day making room in Aspendell for more snow storage. He said they split crews, anticipating a long storm event, working from 6 p.m. to 11 a.m. The storm didn't hit too

hard on Saturday, he said, although there was some freezing rain. Sunday brought the brunt of the storm, he said, and while the County is fortunate to have a really great avalanche assessment specialist, she was snowed in at her home in Crowley Lake. Cash said crews stayed in safe zones until she was able to arrive and provide an assessment. Crews basically stayed on the west side of State Route 168 in Aspendell until about 1 p.m. and then were able to come up to South Lake, although they were unable to plow that day because they could not see the mountains. Some rock slides did occur overnight but nothing really major that crews couldn't handle, he said. At 11:45 p.m. Sunday night, LADWP made the decision to bleed off some of the water to the Bishop bypass, Cash said. He noted that without being sure what would happen with all the debris in the bypass, the Road Department pre-emptively closed Brockman Lane and re-opened it in the morning. He said most of Monday was spent doing damage assessment and they found it wasn't too bad. Now they're preparing for the next storm, getting ready to open Pine Creek Road and Glacier Lodge Road, and doing some equipment maintenance. Supervisors Griffiths and Totheroh offered high praise to the Road Department crews for their professional response that reassured residents. Cash said it was a team effort with great cooperation all around. CAO Carunchio echoed those sentiments and said the County was grateful LADWP decided to utilize the bypass. Lt. Juan Martinez reported that, based on alerts received from the National Weather Service in Las Vegas, emergency response partners throughout the county met Friday, including various County departments, LADWP, Southern California Edison, City of Bishop, and Tribal governments. The Sheriff's Department issued Code Red Alerts to Bishop Creek Canyon and Aspendell residents about avalanche danger, floods, and crews' inability to plow. Personal contacts were made with residents in Pine Creek and Big Pine Canyon alerting them to the possible dangers. Numerous press releases and social media updates were made regularly advising the public about weather dangers and where they could get sandbags and sand. On Sunday about 8 p.m. an EOC was opened with limited staffing to monitor the rainfall and creeks. He said emergency crews responded to minor nuisance flooding and rock slides. On Monday, responders held a critical incident debrief to discuss responses and any issues that were observed. He said the focus is now on upcoming storms expected tonight and Friday. Chairperson Tillemans commented on the good cooperation between the different agencies and Tribes. CAO Carunchio said he wanted to personally recognize Sheriff Lutze, Chris Cash, and Emergency Management Specialist Kelley Williams for getting the sandbags ready and doing an inventory weeks ago. He said this weekend when it became clear local retailers were running low, Williams was able to secure 4,000 sandbags in Ridgecrest and John Jones from the Road Department made the treacherous trip to pick them up, navigating his way through seven different rollovers between Big Pine and Independence. Supervisor Kingsley said he heard about several rollovers on the scanner Saturday and again Monday night, and complimented the responding agencies and their dispatch centers. HHS Director Jean Turner commended CAO Carunchio and Sheriff's Department for organizing the preparation efforts. She also offered an update on the status of the Governor's Budget.

*PRESENTATION –
GREENFIRE ECO2G*

Joe Scherer, CEO of GreenFire Energy, Inc., introduced Mark Muir, the company's principal founder, and Chris Ellis, Site Manager of Coso Geothermal. He then presented a brief overview of GreenFire Energy's supercritical CO2 energy production technology and its plans to construct a demo site at Coso Geothermal. He said GreenFire was in the process of applying for a grant from the California Energy Commission in the next 10 days that would fund the demo site. He described GreenFire's proprietary technology, called ECO2G, as being able to exploit vast, very hot geothermal resources to provide clean, scalable, continuous, dispatchable economic power without batteries. He stressed that it does not use water resources. Scherer also said it is devoid of environmental impacts, and said he knows that can be a dangerous thing to say but he stands by it. He said ECO2G is different because it utilizes supercritical CO2 in an entirely closed loop at very hot and very deep depths – from 5 to 7 kilometers all the way through the fractured zone. He said Ellis has agreed to loan GreenFire a well for its demonstration. He said the well is perfectly good as a demonstrator but not as hot or deep as would be needed for commercial production. He stressed again that their technology does not put anything into the environment or interact with the environment, so fracking or seismic events should not be a concern. Supervisor Totheroh pointed out there is actually interaction with the environment when the resource is cooled. Chairperson Tillemans asked whether the pipe used in the closed loop is flexible. Scherer responded that it's injecting and removing liquid from a resource that is thought to trigger seismic events. He described how the loop would be constructed for the demo project. Scherer added that there is a lot of data that has allowed GreenFire to extrapolate that it can produce 80 times the amount of existing geothermal power available at Coso Geothermal and worldwide. He said their project includes several strategic relationships as well as a

research component. They work with some of the biggest drilling companies in the world as well as companies who make turbines for supercharges CO2. Supervisor Totheroh clarified that the turbine at the demo well would then have to change. Scherer confirmed that the well would need to be tailored somewhat to their operation but otherwise GreenFire is perfectly complementary to Coco Geothermal or any other hydrothermal operation. He said if GreenFire is permitted to develop for commercial production, wells will be 80 percent of their costs. He estimates it would take three years to drill out for a 200 megawatt project – they only get about 1 megawatt per well – so these will be huge, expensive projects, he said. Chairperson Tillemans asked how the power would be distributed. Scherer said there is some transmission availability on Coso's existing line, but nowhere near what will be needed for 200 megawatts. He said that is a discussion for a later time. Supervisor Kingsley asked if the pipe breaks, is it only CO2 that's leaking into the earth. Scherer said yes, and noted that CO2 is a naturally occurring element. The presentation concluded with Scherer presenting a sample letter to the Board to send in support of GreenFire's grant application if it desired. CAO Carunchio noted that the letter's possible approval would need to be formally agendaized. It was decided to schedule the consideration for the January 17 meeting, since GreenFire's application is due next week.

PRESENTATION – DRECP STATUS

Russell Scofield, Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan Implementation Coordinator for the BLM, introduced new California Desert District Manager Beth Ransel, who shared a bit about herself and her experience. She said the DRECP implementation will be a marathon rather than a sprint and she stands ready and willing to work with Inyo County on any topics. Ransel also thanked Inyo County for its involvement so far and for staff's help in the development of the DRECP. Scofield, noting that a developer in Palm Springs had once proposed a project six townships in size, said the DRECP was developed with two co-equal goals: protecting sensitive species and their habitat, ecosystem function, unique areas, cultural resources, recreation, and other resource values; and providing areas for streamlined siting of approximately 20,000 megawatts of renewable energy projects and transmission on public and private lands by 2040. He discussed the Key Land Allocations: Development Focus Areas, Variance Process Lands, California Desert National Conservation Lands, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Special Recreation Management Areas, General Public Lands, and (not in Inyo County) Wildlife Allocations and Extensive Wildlife Management Areas. He noted that the plan sets up a system for Conservation and Management Actions, called CMAs, more than 300 of which are included. Scofield then went over some of the changes between the draft DRECP and the final, including boundary adjustments (which he said were very minor and put boundaries in line with physical features), clarifications to CMAs, and terminology changes (e.g., General Public Lands used to be called Unallocated Lands). Supervisor Griffiths asked whether the opportunity for litigation has passed. Scofield said so far, the BLM hasn't received any in response to the DRECP. Ransel said the appeal period is over but there is no timeframe for filing lawsuits. She said they received no appeals, which Supervisor Griffiths called a miracle. Scofield then went over the final decisions affecting Inyo County, including: 13,400 acres of Development Focus Areas, 445 acres of Variance Process Lands, 752,000 acres of conservation designations, 323,000 acres of recreation designations, and 86,500 acres General Public Lands. Scofield presented maps of the above-listed allocations, which showed a lot of conservation designations in the Tecopa/Shoshone area. He also noted that on General Public Lands, renewable energy is not incentivized as it is on Development Focus Areas, but it also is not prohibited. He also noted a recreation designation does not prohibit development or mining. Scofield then referred to the DRECP implementation document, which he said is stamped "draft" because it will be considered a dynamic document moving forward. In addition to communication and outreach with stakeholders and the public, the implementation plan includes a demonstration project in San Bernardino County for mitigation on public lands. Supervisor Kingsley explained that actually mitigating instead of taking lands out of private ownership is something Inyo County has long promoted. Discussion turned to the 1 percent disturbance cap on National Conservation Area lands. Scofield said mapping has begun so that the BLM can set a baseline first. The 1 percent includes all existing disturbances. Supervisor Griffiths asked about roads – which Scofield called linear transportation features that are considered a disturbance. He said to keep in mind that the 1 percent only applies to National Conservation Area lands, where renewable energy development wouldn't be taking place anyway. Supervisor Griffiths responded that the three-quarters of a million acres of conservation lands the DRECP allocates in Inyo County is a surprise, especially the vastness of it. He said Inyo County seems to be the mitigation area for the rest of the desert where the disturbances will actually happen. Scofield went on to discuss DRECP Phase II, which includes building on the work counties did with their REGPAs. He then discussed the Mineral Withdrawal. On December 28, 2016, BLM

published a Segregation Notice in the Federal Register that temporarily segregates 270,110 acres in Inyo County within California Desert National Conservation Lands from metallic mineral location for up to two years. The publication initiated a 90-day public scoping period and development of an Environmental Impact Statement. Supervisor Totheroh asked whether this proposed, temporary withdrawal is why Inyo County has seen such a huge increase in filing of mining claims recently. Assistant Planning Director Cathreen Richards said it is possible. Supervisor Pucci said the BLM doesn't have much credibility with "temporary" actions, considering the Wilderness Study Areas that have yet to be released. He said this looks permanent. Ransel said the Federal Register notice clearly specifies the withdrawal is only for a two-year period. Supervisor Kingsley said that the County was previously told during the development of the DRECP that there wouldn't be any mineral withdrawal, so this is a surprise and he is not sure why the BLM is doing this. He said Inyo County was built on gold and silver, so when the withdrawal only applies to those minerals, it feels like Inyo County is being targeted. He said if the BLM holds any scoping meetings on the subject, he would hope some could be held in Southeast Inyo to better accommodate the affected miners in that area. Ransel noted that Inyo's recent 800 mining claims can be developed if they were properly filed. She said BLM wants to hear from the County on what areas are important to mining so they can make a well informed decision when the time comes. Supervisor Totheroh asked how BLM chose the areas it did for withdrawal. Ransel said they identified areas that are a subset of conservation areas and where resource values should be protected. Supervisor Kingsley asked why they did this at all. Ransel said because the BLM committed in the DRECP to a withdrawal of high-priority California Desert National Conservation Lands. Supervisor Griffiths said, in other words, to mitigate for solar projects somewhere else. Supervisor Kingsley said such little land is actually mined in Inyo County, it seems like an overreaction. Ransel asked Supervisor Kingsley for suggestions for local meeting sites. Earl McWilliams of Lone Pine urged the BLM to remember the social and economic impacts to Inyo County as well. With the presentation wrapped up, Scofield and Ransel reiterated their open door status with the County and urged the Supervisors to give them a call.

RECESS FOR LUNCH

Chairperson Tillemans recessed the meeting at 12:56 p.m. for lunch and reconvened the meeting at 1:36 p.m. with all Board members present.

PLANNING – PUBLIC LANDS UPDATE

Assistant Planning Director Cathreen Richards explained that, as part of the Board's desire to further explore local land use issues in the hope of resolving them with a more comprehensive approach, Planning staff developed a summary of some of the varied complex interlinking public lands background topics. She discussed the various lands managed by different agencies in Inyo County, including the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, and National Park Service, as well as the different designations for the lands, including national forest, national park, and wilderness. She also reviewed which plans these agencies use to manage the public lands in their jurisdictions. BLM, for example, is governed in different areas by the California Desert Conservation Area Plan, the West Mojave Plan, the Northern and Eastern Mojave Plan, the Bishop Resource Management Plan, and the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. BLM land designations include Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and DWP Watershed Withdrawals. Inyo National Forest lands are managed according to the Land and Resource Management Plan, the Travel Management Plan, and the Travel Analysis. Management documents affecting the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power include the Long-Term Water Agreement, the Owens Valley Land Management Plan, and the Owens Lake Master Project. Richards also discussed the numerous issues, plans, and considerations involving Manzanar National Historic Site, Old Spanish Trail, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Defense, Army Corps of Engineers, State Lands Commission, Water Quality Control Board, Caltrans, five local tribes, Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District, and of course, Inyo County. Supervisor Griffiths called her report a keeper, saying it is a handy reference in general for everything related to local land use issues. Supervisor Pucci said that, in 10 pages, it probably summarizes thousands of pages of documentation and he appreciated the effort. He also noted the Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Act of 2016 might be worth adding to the conversation because it requires agencies to take economic impacts into consideration when adopting land use policies that affect outdoor recreation. He said while its sponsors are from Vermont so it primarily focuses on fishing and boating, it does mention hiking, biking, and skiing. Chairperson Tillemans said he might have referenced that during the Forest Plan Revision process as a way to give mountain bike enthusiasts a way to access wilderness, and promoting mountain biking in wilderness would be good for the area.

*HHS-FISCAL –
REDWOOD
TOXICOLOGY P.O.*

Melissa Best-Baker of HHS-Fiscal explained that in the past, HHS' Child Protective Services division used to spend less than \$10,000 for urine sample collection devices and laboratory services, but this year the division seems to have a lot more cases. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve a purchase order up to \$20,000 with Redwood Toxicology Laboratory, Inc. of Santa Rosa, California for the provision of urine sample collection devices and laboratory services to the Inyo County Health and Human Services' Child Protective Services division. Motion carried unanimously.

*CLERK-RECORDER –
OPPOSE SB 2 UNLESS
AMENDED*

Clerk-Recorder Kammi Foote told the Board it has seen SB 2, in different form, the past three legislative cycles. She said this is the fourth time some iteration of the bill has been introduced in the State Legislature. The Board opposed the 2013 and 2014 versions. SB 2 would impose a \$75 fee (tax) on every real instrument, paper, or notice required or permitted by law to be recorded. Foote said the current version of the bill exempts home purchases, but shifts the burden to everybody else recording documents. She said she has been a strong opponent of these bills because of the regressive nature of the tax and the steep increase. She also noted that recording is a voluntary act, and such a high fee will be detrimental to the public records system. Foote said she is asking for an "opposed, unless amended" stance on SB 2 because although she personally doesn't support any tax on recorded documents, if the legislature is determined to do this, she would rather see a version that doesn't hurt miners and other individuals. The idea, she said, is a softer way to oppose the bill's impacts. Supervisor Griffiths asked if it would give her any heartburn if the Board took a straight "oppose" position. Foote said not at all. Supervisor Totheroh asked what she thought would get the best outcome. She said in her statewide associations, "oppose, unless amended" positions usually inspire conversation. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to: A) take an "Oppose, Unless Amended" position to SB 2 (Atkins) pursuant to the Inyo County Legislative Platform, General Government Item #10 "Oppose legislation that would require counties to share State expenses and liability on projects outside local jurisdictions" and General Government Item #14 "Oppose legislation that is unduly burdensome to private industry;" and B) review draft correspondence regarding SB 2 and authorize the Chairperson to sign draft correspondence regarding SB 2. Supervisor Kingsley wanted to go on record that he thinks the "oppose, unless amended" position provides more leverage. He said he supports affordable housing, but not on the backs of other people. Motion carried unanimously.

*PUBLIC WORKS –
SNOW REMOVAL
POLICY
PRESENTATION*

Public Works Director Clint Quilter offered an overview of the County's snow removal policy, which was approved unanimously by the Board of Supervisors in 2006. He said the goal of the policy is to ensure the safety of County employees and volunteers and provide for the safest possible movement of traffic throughout the county. He said each County road is maintained according to the policy's priority order: A. Support for emergency agency responses; B. Main arterial, collector streets and school bus routes; C. Secondary residential streets; D. Non-residential outlying paved roads; and E. Outlying paved streets that are not normally plowed but may require access. Quilter said the policy also identifies different levels of operation. Level 1 is normal operations. Level 2 is when the Road Department really puts the priority list into action, he said, and would typically get to roads no lower than those on the C scale. Level 3 calls for focus primarily on A and B roads. Crews definitely will not plow D and E roads during Level 3 operations, he said. Quilter also noted that in addition to storms, crews will plow for seasonal road openings. He said plow operators try to leave as small a berm as possible in front of driveways and always follow the Vehicle Code in addition to the County Snow Removal Policy. Quilter noted that the Road Commissioner has the authority to direct crews to clear state highways in order to reach County roads. He said the policy includes pretty strong language that County drivers are not to run County equipment on private property. Road Maintenance Supervisor Chris Cash pointed out this was probably added for the protection of employees, who are sometimes asked by residents to clear their driveways and can point to the policy as the reason they cannot legally do it. Quilter then discussed Sue Burak's role as the County's avalanche specialist, who assesses the avalanche danger in plow zones and lets road crews know when it's safe to do their jobs. Quilter said a longtime Aspendell resident named Mr. Archer kept meticulous notes over the years that Ms. Burak uses to compare to current data when trying to predict storm and snow behavior. She also uses data from a weather station above North Lake. Quilter said her information is invaluable. He said it would be his department's worst nightmare to have one of the operators caught in an avalanche. He noted the information is also passed along to the residents as a courtesy. He said he sleeps a lot better knowing that with Ms. Burak's information, they are not putting crew members in harm's

way. Supervisor Pucci asked for Quilter's overall impressions of the policy. He said he thought it was good but thinks this summer they could spend some time freshening it up. Supervisor Pucci said he appreciated the positive attitudes and good public relations skills of the snow plow drivers.

**RECYCLING & WASTE
MANAGEMENT –
BISHOP-SUNLAND
LANDFILL LEASE
PREVIEW**

Assistant County Administrator Rick Benson said he wanted to offer the Board a preview of an item coming up for approval next week: the renewal of the Bishop-Sunland Landfill lease with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. He said the bottom line is, staff is not very excited about some of the terms included in the new lease. He explained that because of various non-compliance issues, primarily exceeding daily tonnage limits, the County needs a new landfill permit to avoid incurring \$10,000 a day fines from CalRecycle. LADWP has refused to sign off on the new permit until a new lease is in place at the Bishop-Sunland Landfill. Benson noted the current lease expired in June 2009. He said County and LADWP have been negotiating lease terms since March, and while local LADWP staff has been helpful and responsible, the County still has numerous concerns, including the basic premise: that the County can have the lease as long as Los Angeles decides it doesn't want the land. Benson said aside from that, after all the negotiations, LADWP would only agree to a three-year term. Supervisor Griffiths noted the lease has been expired for seven or eight years already. Benson said the new lease also comes with 53 new provisions, including LADWP's ability to terminate the lease with a 180-day notice; a mandated educational program about illegal dumping; holding the County responsible for illegal dumping near the facility and for litter from untarped loads (a new fence to solve the problem could cost about \$200,000); the prohibition of out-of-county waste; an increase in rent in year 3 from \$4,910 a year to \$22,637; automatic LADWP involvement any time the County interacts with a regulatory agency (Inyo Recycling and Waste Management must provide LADWP with a plan to comply with state regulators within 14 days of receiving a notice from the state regulator); LADWP's written consent prior to the County obtaining or seeking modification of any permits, licenses, or orders; quarterly meetings with LADWP; submittal of financial assurance documents to LADWP; approval of landfill signage; assessment by LADWP of the County's provisions for the disabled (if they are deemed inadequate, LADWP may make alterations and charge the County for the work); and numerous reporting requirements related to projects and improvements at the landfill. Benson said the rent increase is due in part to LADWP categorizing the County's per-ton charge as income and wanting a piece of the action. LADWP also placed a value on the water and dirt the County uses for cover at the landfill. He said all told, the new lease could amount to a potential cost increase to the County of \$19 per ton, when it is already paying LADWP's property taxes on the land (about \$9,000 a year). CAO Carunchio reiterated his position that any lease between governments or agencies providing a public service should be no more than \$1 a year. Benson said that County Counsel made several attempts to insert language into the lease that would make it clear that when LADWP's consent is needed, it wouldn't be unreasonably withheld or delayed. Benson said they objected. County Counsel Rudolph said LADWP's position is they are going to be reasonable, but they don't want to have to debate or dispute their reasonableness. Despite all the concerns, Benson told the Board approval of the lease was nevertheless recommended because it was absolutely necessary in order to comply with CalRecycle and avoid steep fines and drastic cuts in landfill hours. Supervisor Pucci said this is not like a common business lease in that management of public waste is a public safety issue – and it's something the County is required to do. He also noted that it will be impossible to get grants with a three-year lease. He worried the draconian measures of the lease could impact public health, and said the day the lease is approved, discussions needed to start with LADWP about improving the terms. Supervisor Kingsley said he thinks those measures will hurt LADWP too in the long run through illegal dumping. Supervisor Griffiths said he thinks the County has to move forward with the lease because cutting the hours at the landfill once it reaches its daily tonnage limit doesn't magically make the rest of the garbage disappear. He agreed the County needed to start right away trying to convey to the City what impacts this lease will have on a fellow agency trying to run a simple operation for the health and safety of its residents. He also pointed out that LADWP, as an entity in the valley, is probably the biggest user of County landfills. Supervisor Totheroh was not happy with the lease proposed by LADWP, which he called crazy. Earl Wilson of Lone Pine said he has read the lease and he wouldn't sign it. He said the provisions are probably more than LADWP asks of its own operators. Wilson suggested maybe relocating to nearby BLM land, and said LADWP is operating its own landfill at the old sand pit in Lone Pine, possibly without a permit. The Supervisors attempted to ask the Environmental Health Director but he did not stay for the agenda item. Supervisor Pucci said he thinks when the Board talks about public health issues related to the landfills, it is imperative that the Environmental Health Director is in attendance. Chairperson Tillemans said he agreed.

*BOARD CLERK –
APPROVAL OF
MINUTES*

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve the minutes of the regular Board of Supervisors meeting of December 20, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairperson Tillemans asked for public comment and there was none.

*BOARD MEMBER
AND STAFF REPORTS*

Deputy Personnel Director Sue Dishion reported that the District Attorney's and Child Support Services offices in Bishop have sustained water damage and those staff members are being relocated: the D.A.'s staff to Independence and Child Support Services to May Street initially and then to Mono County. She said there is a 1-800 number to reach the Child Support staff. County Counsel has gotten involved to work with the landlord. Public Works Director Clint Quilter told the Board Public Works is anticipating recommending a new, permanent location because of ongoing problems with the West Line Street facility. He said the D.A.'s Office had to be closed a couple of times last winter because the landlord refused to fix the heater and it fell to below 10 degrees. He said the roof has been another issue and noted that the County is at the end of its lease anyway.

CAO Carunchio reported that the National Weather Service has issued a snow advisory for the Southern Sierra with snow dropping to 6,000 feet. He said Sherwin Grade has been closed north of Bishop due to snow, and he would inform HHS Director Jean Turner in case of shelter needs. He said there is also a wind advisory in effect for U.S. 395 from Pearsonville to Bishop – a downgrade from last night's wind warning and 80 mph gusts that closed the highway. He then reported the wind advisory had just been upgraded to a wind warning.

Chairperson Tillemans reported that he attended the Big Pine Civic Club meeting last night where they reviewed the success of the community's Christmas events. He said this weekend there would be a burrito sale as a fundraiser for Wounded Warriors. He said he gave a bit of an overview of the El Camino Sierra project and got a good response. He also received a call from a director of a local committee who had quorum concerns so he was considering maybe adding an alternate position during the upcoming committee appointments. He also mentioned that dates for department head evaluations shouldn't conflict with ESCOG meeting dates and said he would be traveling during the last two weeks in January.

Supervisor Griffiths reported he attended last night's City Council meeting, where he gave his regular County update and they approved a letter to LADWP regarding LADWP commercial and business leases that was nearly identical to the one approved and mailed by the County. He said the Council postponed its Prop 64 discussion because of the inclement weather. He said he volunteered at the soup kitchen and was able to speak with homeless residents and direct them to local services. He said he hoped none of them went without shelter during the storm. He noted that LADWP roused a bunch of homeless residents a few weeks ago from its lands and word is they moved south, where IMACA has services available as well. He said one of the things the Arts Council is talking about very speculatively with El Camino Sierra is maybe having the California Arts Commission sponsor an article on California highways. He also said the Mexican Consulate in Reno is interested in doing mobile office hours in Inyo County at the end of February/early March to help residents with paperwork and identification. He also attended an ESTA meeting where the MOU with the bus drivers was approved, and a Laws Museum Board meeting where they talked about some exciting developments, including a new barn to house the restored Borax wagons.

Supervisor Pucci reported that he has received a lot of calls about storage containers in front yards. Other issues that have come up, he said, are code enforcement and vacation rentals.

Supervisor Totheroh said he has received a couple calls about vacation rentals also and disruption to communities, and how that would be dealt with. He said he told them there would be public involvement before the Board took any regulatory action. He also said he has had flooding at his property in Starlite.

Supervisor Kingsley said on Sunday he attended an Eagle Scout ceremony for a local youth whose project was the Inyo County sign down by Pearsonville. He offered his thanks to Chris Cash and the Road Department for their help with the installation and permitting process. He said he believes there has been some sort of agreement crafted between Senator Feinstein and Congressman Cook over the Alabama Hills bill, but he is not sure on the details. One

assessment he received was that the possibility of the legislation getting through is fairly low. He also noted that CAO Carunchio gave a presentation on El Camino Sierra to the Lone Pine Chamber the other night and people were really excited.

CAO Carunchio said he is excited about the support of the concept to celebrate the end of Inyo County's sesquicentennial with El Camino Sierra. He said the soft roll-out is going fantastic. The Road Department is working on signs, and there will be a gala unveiling at some point. He said he appreciated the Road Department's work.

County Counsel Rudolph said the Monday, January 9 special meeting was cancelled because of the inclement weather and will be rescheduled.

*BOARD MEMBER
AND STAFF REPORTS
– FAREWELLS TO
PLANNING DIRECTOR*

Near the end of the meeting, Board members and staff offered their goodbyes and gratitude to Planning Director Josh Hart on his last day with Inyo County:

Chairperson Tillemans said obviously the County is taking a hit with Mr. Hart leaving but he is happy for him changing careers and being able to make an impact with young people. He wished Mr. Hart the best.

Supervisor Totheroh said having worked with other Planning Directors, he could say the responsiveness increased significantly with Mr. Hart in the role. Supervisor Totheroh said Mr. Hart has done an excellent job and he is thrilled he gets to move on to pursue another passion, but the County will be losing a valuable resource.

Supervisor Griffiths said Mr. Hart has gone above and beyond with his work output and quality, in gaining public input and with his passion for planning. He wished Mr. Hart the best.

Supervisor Kingsley noted that with the vast amount of public lands in Inyo County and the engagement the County has to have in relation to that, Mr. Hart really led the charge on complicated, difficult issues. He said the County is losing expertise for sure.

Supervisor Pucci said it was a real pleasure and privilege to work with Mr. Hart.

County Counsel Rudolph said he felt very fortunate to have had at least a year to work with Mr. Hart. He said he is a tremendously talented guy and while sorry to see him go, he wishes him the best.

CAO Carunchio said Mr. Hart's work output and responsiveness to the Board of Supervisors' initiatives and quest and thirst for planning information is unparalleled, with him and his department putting out a truly staggering amount of work on a daily basis. He said he enjoyed watching Mr. Hart at public meetings, will miss his work output and presence, and is glad he is pursuing his dreams.

*RECESS/RECONVENE
TO CLOSED SESSION*

Chairperson Tillemans recessed the meeting at 3:53 p.m. for a reception in the lobby for Planning Director Josh Hart, followed by the Board reconvening to closed session to continue discussions from earlier in the day.

OPEN SESSION

Chairperson Tillemans recessed closed session at 5 p.m. and reconvened in open session with all Board members present. No action was taken during closed session that is required to be reported.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Tillemans adjourned the meeting at 5 p.m. to Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. in the County Administrative Center in Independence.

Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

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

by: _____
Darcy Ellis, Assistant