

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

April 4, 2017

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 April 4, 2017, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present: Vice Chairperson Dan Totheroh, presiding, Rick Pucci, Jeff Griffiths and Matt Kingsley. Arriving after the start of closed session: Chairperson Mark Tillemans.

PUBLIC COMMENT Vice Chairperson Totheroh asked for public comment during the first public comment period and there was none.

CLOSED SESSION Vice Chairperson Totheroh recessed open session at 8:34 a.m. to convene in closed session with all Board members present except Chairperson Tillemans 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 (two cases); 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. Chairperson Tillemans arrived shortly after the commencement of closed session.

OPEN SESSION Chairperson Tillemans recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:13 a.m. with all Board members present.

PLEDGE Supervisor Griffiths led the pledge of allegiance.

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT Chairperson Tillemans asked for public comment during the second public comment period and there was none.

COUNTY DEPARTMENT REPORTS Chairperson Tillemans opened the floor to County Department Head reports and there were none.

INTRODUCTIONS Health and Human Services Director Jean Turner introduced to the Board Bree Toppas, new Residential Caregiver for HHS, and Farm Advisor Dustin Blakey introduced Melissa Yeager, his office’s new Office Clerk III.

PROCLAMATIONS – SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH/CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH Dr. Trina Tobey, Executive Director of Wild Iris, was in attendance to ask the Board to proclaim April Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month in Inyo County. Tobey noted that she has worked with hundreds of clients over her career who have been victims of both sexual assault and child abuse, and said, as an adoptive foster parent, that she can personally attest to the impacts that are wrought throughout a person’s lifespan and on the community as a whole. She said she is proud to work with an organization that treats the victims of sexual assault and child abuse and helps to prevent new victims. She said in 2016, Wild Iris served 50 primary sexual assault clients, 11 of whom were minors. If figuring in domestic

violence clients who have been sexually assaulted, the number climbs to 91 in Inyo County alone. She discussed the various prevention efforts being undertaken by Wild Iris and distributed to the Board schedules and flyers of awareness and prevention month activities. Tobey noted ways the Board as a whole and as individuals can help with prevention and awareness. Chairperson Tillemans said the community was fortunate to have her working to address these issues and said she might consider a presentation to the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments as one way to garner multi-agency involvement. Supervisor Griffiths said he would be remiss if he didn't recognize the recently departed Eileen Peterson, who just a few decades ago started Wild Iris with a phone in her kitchen – or a phone on a stump outside her house when her kitchen was being built. Chairperson Tillemans read each proclamation aloud. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to proclaim April 2017 Child Abuse Prevention Month in Inyo County. Motion carried unanimously. Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Tothoroh to proclaim April 2017 Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Inyo County. Motion carried unanimously.

***PARKS & REC –
ACCEPT BOATING &
WATERWAYS GRANT
RESOLUTION***

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve a resolution titled, "A Resolution of the Board of the Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Authorizing the Acceptance of the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, Division of Boating and Waterways Grant, and Authorizing the County Administrator to Sign Grant Related Documents." Motion carried unanimously.

***CAO-PERSONNEL –
MOU WITH ICCOA***

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to ratify and approve the November 1, 2016 through October 31, 2019 Inyo County Correctional Officers Association (ICCOA) Memorandum of Understanding. Motion carried unanimously.

***CAO-PERSONNEL –
RESOLUTION FOR
NON-REPPED
EMPLOYEES***

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve a resolution titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Setting Salary, Terms and Conditions of Employment for Non-Represented Employees Employed in the Several Offices or Institutions of the County of Inyo and Rescinding Resolution 2007-32," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

***CAO-PERSONNEL –
RESOLUTION FOR
MANAGEMENT
EMPLOYEES***

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve a resolution titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Rescinding Resolution 2006-05 and Setting Salary and/or Terms and Conditions of Employment for Management Employees Employed in the Several Offices or Institutions of the County of Inyo," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

***CAO-PERSONNEL –
RESOLUTION FOR
APPOINTED
OFFICIALS***

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve a resolution titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Amending Resolution 2006-09 Changing Salary and/or Terms and Conditions of Employment for Appointed Officials Employed in the Several Offices or Institutions of the County of Inyo." Motion carried unanimously.

***CAO-PERSONNEL – IS
DIRECTOR PERSONAL
SERVICES CONTRACT***

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to authorize the County Administrator to sign a personal services contract with Scott R. Armstrong for Information Services Director for \$11,550 per month effective May 4, 2017, contingent on all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

***MOTOR POOL –
BISHOP FORD BID
AWARD***

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to award a bid to Bishop Ford as the low bidder for the purchase of one (1) 2017 Ford F150 XL 4x4 in the amount of \$27,765.37. Motion carried unanimously.

***PW – SIERRA
LIFELIGHT FUEL
DISCOUNT
CONTRACT***

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Sierra Lifelight, a subsidiary of Reach Medical Holdings, LLC, for the provision of a fuel discount, in an amount not to exceed \$.50 per gallon off the current published price, provided the fuel is purchased from the Bishop Airport and paid for using either a Shell Aviation fuel card or Shell Citi Visa credit card, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent on all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

***PW – WESTERN
NEVADA SUPPLY
PURCHASE***

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve the purchase of material from Western Nevada Supply in the amount of \$8,900, for a total amount not to exceed \$17,292.58. Motion carried unanimously.

PW – BISHOP HEATING & AIR (2 HEATERS) PURCHASE Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve the purchase and installation of two heaters from Bishop Heating and Air in Bishop, CA in an amount not to exceed \$9,366.68. Motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF – USFS CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE OPS REIMBURSEMENT APPLICATION Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to: A) approve the application for the 2017 Financial & Operation Plan for Controlled Substance Operations U.S. Forest Service reimbursements in the amount of \$5,000; and B) authorize the Inyo County Sheriff and Board Chairperson to sign the agreement and all necessary documents, contingent upon adoption of the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 budget. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION – SIERRA LIFEFLIGHT MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM Supervisor Griffiths said he had the opportunity to tour Sierra Lifelight’s facilities at the Bishop Airport when it was acquired by REACH Air Medical Services and had the chance to see and hear about new/expanded air ambulance services. He said the County does not endorse businesses or products, but thought the Board meeting might be a good opportunity for Sierra Lifelight to let the public know about new offerings for the community. Matt Johnston, Membership Sales Manager for Sierra Lifelight, spoke briefly about the AirMedCare Network annual memberships being offered and which provide full coverage for air ambulance services through all Network providers in all of their service areas nationwide. He said memberships cover all family members, who are left with zero-balance bills instead of paying tens of thousands of dollars for helicopter or aircraft transport for medical care, which is money that can continue to be spent with local businesses in the community. He said it takes less than five minutes to sign a household up for the membership and encouraged interested residents to do so before the services are actually needed. Chairperson Tillemans said the membership has sparked a positive buzz in the community and the acquisition seems to have unfolded in a great way.

HHS – CORRECTIONAL NURSE HHS Director Jean Turner said the longtime jail nurse is moving on and she had a good meeting with the Sheriff and jail staff to develop a Plan B in the event the position can’t be filled. Supervisor Griffiths asked about different possibilities for filling the position, and Turner noted that they have been considered since the early to mid-2000s – when the County was already having trouble recruiting nurses – and are part of different models that can be used if needed. Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Pucci for the Board to find that, consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy: A) the availability of non-General Funds for a Correctional Nurse position exist in the non-General Fund Public Health budget, as certified by the Health and Human Services Director and concurred with by the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller; B) whereas it is unlikely that the Correctional Nurse position could be filled by internal candidates meeting the qualifications of the position, an open recruitment would be appropriate to ensure qualified applicants apply for that specialized position; and C) approve the hiring of one (1) Correctional Nurse at Range 78 (\$5,503 - \$6,455) if filled with a Registered Nurse, or at Range 80 (\$5,559 - \$6,761) if filled with a Public Health Nurse. Motion carried unanimously.

WATER – SEASONAL FIELD ASSISTANT Aaron Steinwand from the Water Department spoke on behalf of the absent Water Director Dr. Bob Harrington, explaining that the department usually requests six Seasonal Field Assistant positions in its fiscal year budgets but mistakenly requested only five in Fiscal Year 2016-2017. The mistake was corrected in the mid-year budget and now the department is asking permission to hire for the position. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths 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 a Seasonal Field Assistant position exists in the Water Department budget, as certified by the Water 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, but an open recruitment would be more appropriate; and C) approve the hiring of one (1) Seasonal Field Assistant I at Range 050PT (\$14.75 - \$17.91/hr.), June 1, 2017 through August 31, 2017, contingent upon the adoption of a Fiscal Year 2017-2018 budget. Motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF – DOOLEY ENTERPRISE SOURCE, RATIFY, P.O. Sheriff Lutze presented a request to purchase an additional \$10,000 worth of ammunition, needed because the high number of people the department sent to the academy, along with a special training event in Bishop, wiped out the department’s supplies. In response to questions from Supervisor Griffiths, Sheriff Lutze elaborated that Dooley Enterprises is the only company that will sell to the department in specific amounts needed by Inyo County and at competitive prices, and noted that 10 recruits were sent to the academy this fiscal year and used about

1,500 to 2,000 rounds each while there. Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to: A) declare Dooley Enterprises, Inc. of Anaheim, CA as the sole-source provider of ammunition, ratify payments to Dooley Enterprises, Inc. of \$11,383.39, and authorize a purchase order to Dooley Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$10,060; and B) amend the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Sheriff General Budget (Budget 022700) as follows: increase estimated revenue in Sheriff General Budget (Budget 022700) COPS (Revenue Code 4488) by \$10,060 and increase appropriation in Sheriff General Budget (Budget 022700) Law Enforcement Special (Object Code) by \$10,060 (*4/5ths vote required*). Motion carried unanimously.

**PW – SIERRA
GEOTECHNICAL
SERVICES
AMENDMENT 1**

Public Works Director Clint Quilter said Sierra Geotechnical Services was very familiar with the issues on Horseshoe Meadow Road and had just done a really great job for the County on the Whitney Portal Road project, which he said would be open for the summer season although permanent repairs would take a significant amount of work. Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to: A) accept Amendment No. 1 to County of Inyo Standard Contract No. 156 between the County of Inyo and Sierra Geotechnical Services to add to the scope of the original contract, such that it includes geotechnical services to address the immediate safety and slope stability issues on Horseshoe Meadow Road; and B) authorize the Chairperson to execute the amendment to the contract, contingent on all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTOR POOL –
DONATE SURPLUS
VEHICLE TO OVFD**

Assistant County Administrator Rick Benson said the Olancha-Cartago Volunteer Fire Department reached out to the Sheriff's Office in search of a vehicle to replace an old piece of equipment it is no longer safe for the volunteers to use. The Sheriff's Office has an old truck in its fleet that is no longer needed for County use, so giving it to the Fire Department would be a win-win situation, Benson said. Chairperson Tillemans said it is wonderful any time the Board has an opportunity to support Inyo's local fire departments. Supervisor Kingsley, echoing Tillemans' sentiments, added that some other fire departments in the Fifth District might be approaching the County in the near future with similar requests. Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to declare one (1) 2006 Ford F250 (Asset No. 8437) as surplus and no longer required for County use, and approve the donation of said vehicle to the Olancha-Cartago Volunteer Fire Department pursuant to Government Code Section 25365 (*4/5ths vote required*). Motion carried unanimously.

**HERE IT COMES
EMERGENCY**

County staff offered an update on preparations for the coming runoff. Sheriff Lutze reported there was another multi-agency meeting yesterday organized through Unified Command (Inyo County) where LADWP presented a one-page report of historical daily creek flow data, with some data missing. The information had been requested several weeks ago to help with pre-planning efforts. In the interim, Water Director Dr. Bob Harrington did some research of his own and prepared a 15-page report on historic runoff and expectations. CAO Carunchio thanked the Sheriff and his department for being proactive with their ongoing series of press releases, as well as all of the interagency partners for attending the pre-planning meetings. He noted, however, that there is only so much planning everyone can do – and it all hinges on projected creek flows. He said the Water Department deserves a lot of credit for getting out the creek flow data, and said he was hoping for more complete information from LADWP. The key data, he said, is the spontaneous flow information and how that translates into infrastructure damage. He said it looks as if June and July will be the big runoff months based on historic patterns. Sheriff Lutze noted atmospheric river weather conditions were forecast off and on for the next two weeks, which could add to the existing threat with the river and aqueduct at capacity. He said public safety is his department's number one issue at this point. Carunchio said new staff at LADWP in Bishop doesn't seem to share other agencies' viewpoints on how to respond to emergencies so it might be prudent for the Board to hear from LADWP directly on what it is doing to prioritize its response for public safety. Sheriff Lutze said public safety should be number one – things can be replaced but people can't – and there needs to be better communication again from LADWP. Carunchio noted that while LADWP is making a valiant effort to clear ditches throughout the valley with its excavators, agency reps were deafeningly silent when the Bishop Fire Chief asked for confirmation at yesterday's pre-planning meeting whether an excavator could be placed at the Bishop Creek bypass to help fish out debris. Carunchio said in years past, there would have been no hesitation, and making excavators available is the kind of thing that's going to help protect communities this summer. Supervisor Pucci said all agencies have an advantage right now in responding to the Here It Comes Emergency because they have been given time to prepare before it actually happens. He said

the things that need to happen will get done and there doesn't need to be any arguing about it right now about what is whose responsibility. Sheriff Lutze said response is everyone's responsibility in that everyone in government is an emergency service worker with the job of protecting the public. Chairperson Tillemans said it's going to get done, but calling out LADWP's apparent shift in tone and approach – after being longtime partners of the County's in times of crisis – is necessary. Supervisor Kingsley said it's unsettling that the leadership at the LADWP does not understand the traditional way the City and County have worked together. He said he guessed that if the County did get into a bad situation, the LADWP guys on the ground would understand how to help and he hoped there would be no impediments. Supervisor Pucci added that he thought it was important to get the Mayor of Los Angeles involved because what happens in Inyo County affects his constituents too as they visit here each day. Carunchio commented on the concern about bridges being wiped out along the Lower Owens River and the need for LADWP to identify weak spots along the aqueduct for robust pre-planning. He also noted that LADWP would be seeking variances from the Office of Dam Safety to temporarily increase the capacities of Tinnemaha and Haiwee reservoirs. Supervisor Griffiths told Sheriff Lutze comprehensive flow information and inundation maps from LADWP could help his office determine when it might need to evacuate people from certain areas due to flooding. Supervisor Totheroh said he was concerned by the absence of inundation maps. Sheriff Lutze lauded Bishop Fire Chief Seguire for vigilant monitoring of the Bishop Creek Diversion and Carunchio reminded the Board that it is a two-way street and County crews are willing to go on LADWP land to help wherever necessary. Public Works Director Quilter said his crews are patrolling and clearing all the debris from diversions and ditches they can find, irrespective of whose property is whose because they know they have citizens to protect. Quilter said they are also looking to see what LADWP is working on and how it will affect County infrastructure (e.g., water running across County roads), and the best places to stage equipment and where they might anticipate closures. Supervisor Griffiths said it would be nice to have coordination with LADWP if their pre-planning efforts affect access to County roads. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to continue the local emergency known as the "Here It Comes Emergency" that was proclaimed in anticipation of run-off conditions from near-record snowpack posing extreme peril to the safety of property and persons in Inyo County. Motion carried unanimously.

**ROCKY ROAD
EMERGENCY**

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to continue the local emergency known as the "Rocky Road Emergency" that was proclaimed as the result of flooding, mud, and rock landslides and deep snow drifts over portions of Inyo County caused by an atmospheric river weather phenomena that began January 3, 2017 and continued throughout February. Motion carried unanimously.

**GULLY WASHER
EMERGENCY**

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to continue the local emergency known as the "Gully Washer Emergency" that resulted in flooding in the central, south and southeastern portion of Inyo County during the month of July, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

**LAND OF EVEN LESS
WATER EMERGENCY**

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh 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. Motion carried unanimously.

**DV DOWN BUT NOT
OUT EMERGENCY**

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh 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.

**CLERK OF THE
BOARD – APPROVAL
OF MINUTES**

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve the minutes of the regular Board of Supervisors meeting of March 7, 2017 and the special Board of Supervisors meeting of March 7, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

**CLERK-RECORDER-
REGISTRAR OF
VOTERS –
HEARING/WAIVE
FIRST READING ON
FEE ORDINANCE**

Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters Kammi Foote noted that the proposal to raise fees in her office has been a long time coming. She said after taking office in 2010, she started noticing through interactions with her colleagues that Inyo County's fees are the lowest in the State of California. She did some research and discovered that the County has not adopted a wholesale increase of the fees charged for the costs of services provided by the Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters since they were established by the Legislature about 20 to 30 years ago, although certain individual fees have been raised periodically. She said raising fees is not something she

enjoys doing but feels if her office is not covering its direct costs then it's essentially asking all other taxpayers to subsidize the services for which the fees are being charged. Foote noted that a lot of the proposed increases still leave Inyo County's fees lower than what is charged elsewhere in California. Chairperson Tillemans lauded Foote for her public outreach efforts with regard to the proposed fee increases, and for making such a fiscally responsible move. Supervisor Kingsley echoed those sentiments, noting that he also appreciated the homework she did with the fee studies to justify the increases. Supervisor Griffiths said none of the fee increases seemed outrageous and in fact some were comically low originally. The public hearing was opened and closed with no comments received. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to waive the first reading of an ordinance titled, "An Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, Establishing, Increasing, or Decreasing Fees for the Offices of the County Clerk, Recorder and Registrar of Voters" and schedule the adoption for 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 11, 2017, in the Board of Supervisors Room, at the County Administrative Center, in Independence. Motion carried unanimously.

*WORKSHOP –
CLERK-RECORDER-
REGISTRAR OF
VOTERS – VOTING
SYSTEM
TECHNOLOGY*

Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters Kammi Foote presented a workshop on Inyo County's voting technology as a follow-up to the workshop she gave on August 16, 2016, beginning with an overview of the aging, unreliable system currently in use by the Elections Departments: a combination of software produced in 2002 and equipment purchased in 2005 and 2008 with life spans of 6-10 years max. She noted that the system will likely be unable to comply with upcoming legislative changes even if it somehow manages to make it through another election; the server died three weeks after the June 2016 primary and the repair process required finding a computer old enough to accommodate the outdated software. She reminded the Board of the current quote of \$650,000 for a replacement system from one of the few vendors offering systems currently certified by the state. She said the Board has set aside money the past two budget cycles toward eventual replacement (for a total of \$85,739 available now) and mentioned her attendance at a recent open house in Orange County with 17 different tech companies. She reviewed some of the options she found there: sole-source vendor versus requests for proposals (seven counties have purchased new voting systems in the past year and all went sole-source, she said); leasing versus purchasing outright (most of those counties went with leasing options so that after five years the vendors were completely responsible for maintenance and other costs); open source versus proprietary technology (Foote said open source brings the cost down quite a bit and one open source vendor won't be certified until 2018 but can offer new software for only \$60,000); and holding elections via the Senate Bill 450 versus traditional models. Inyo County is one of several counties authorized to adopt the SB 450 model wherein all voters would receive vote-by-mail ballots, eliminating the need for polling stations. In their place, the County would have to staff at least two vote centers for 10 days prior to an election for at least 8 hours a day, with e-poll books (which give election workers and voters real-time data whether someone has already turned in a ballot, thereby reducing costs associated with the need for provisional ballots) and the ability to connect to the Election Management System via WiFi. There is also the requirement that voters have access at the polls to ballots in any language besides English. Supervisor Griffiths asked about whether the "vote centers" could just be a table staffed at a town hall, for example, and if asking volunteers to sit at a table for eight hours a day for 10 days with little to no foot traffic is the best way to honor their commitment. Foote said one possibility is staffing a trailer, as the voters have to be able to drop off ballots, pick up ballots, register to vote, or change their registration during those 10 days. She said she would still prefer one center in every community on election day itself. She noted that, irrespective of SB 450, every community in Inyo County could be made vote-by-mail except for Bishop but she has not made the switch because residents do enjoy and take pride in going to the polls. However, now that 70% of voters are register to vote by mail, she said it is time to reconsider resource allocation. Supervisor Kingsley noted that the majority of District 5 is vote-by-mail so there won't be a big change there, although he did question the need to keep polling centers open and staffed for 10 consecutive days. Supervisor Griffiths said he would like to see a community-by-community analysis of how many voters value in-person voting, noting that the entire state of Oregon went to vote-by-mail and when it did, voter registration actually increased. Foote said vote-by-mail turnout is usually 10% higher than in-person voting at elections and Inyo County has a high turnout rate anyway – 82% at the last election in fact. Supervisor Griffiths said he personally values in-person voting but the SB 450 model is intriguing from a cost perspective and its propensity for increasing voter engagement, and appears to be the future of voting in this country. Foote discussed the timeline for implementing SB 450 if Inyo County wished to do so, concluding that she didn't believe full implementation would be possible in 2017. Problematic is the fact the fairgrounds would not be

available as a 10-day voting center for the June primary because of Mule Days. Supervisor Kingsley said he liked the SB 450 model but perhaps the County should wait until after the next election cycle, by which time more vendors might be certified. Foote said another advantage to that idea is more counties will have adopted the SB 450 model and Inyo County can see more pros and cons. The Board ultimately decided to try to make it through 2018 and then put out a Request for Proposals from vendors contingent upon their systems being certified by implementation in 2020. Foote was directed to work with the CAO on an RFP for purchase options, and will be bringing back data on community propensity for vote-by-mail.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairperson Tillemans asked for public comment during the final public comment period. Robert Straub of Lone Pine offered his comments on the BLM's proposed mining withdrawal and the discussions that have taken place at recent Board of Supervisors meetings. He said he appreciated Supervisor Kingsley's efforts to get an extension of the comment period. He said he participated in the Western Mojave and North Mojave plans undertaken by the BLM. He said he doesn't believe the feds are dealing openly with Inyo County regarding the proposed withdrawal, which he said uses mining as an excuse to control land use. He said such an aggressive step should re-open all the other land-use agreements for re-negotiation and added the County should not be afraid to ask for release of federal lands into private hands as was done during WEMO. He added that restriction of mining has been shown to be ineffective for protection of species overall, and mining has not been responsible for harm to species in the areas proposed for withdrawal in Inyo County.

BOARD AND STAFF REPORTS

Supervisor Kingsley said he attended a Planning Department cannabis meeting in Keeler, noting there was some confusion caused by a sign put up in Darwin that mistakenly informed people there would be a separate meeting held in that community, so only person showed up in Keeler. Kingsley said County staff will be holding a Darwin meeting but not related to cannabis. He noted he also attended a meeting of the Lone Pine Gem and Mineral Society which is celebrating its 20th anniversary, and will be attending another cannabis meeting this week in Tecopa.

Supervisor Griffiths said he would also be attending the cannabis meeting in Tecopa because he would be unable to attend the April 18 special Tecopa Board meeting, and noted that the 2017 Banff Film Festival was a rousing success with 500 people in attendance each night.

CAO Carunchio confirmed with the Board that it was interested in having City of Los Angeles officials visit Friday for a discussion of the impending severe runoff season, and said the agenda for the previously scheduled April 7 special meeting would be amended accordingly.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairperson Tillemans recessed open session at 12:40 p.m. to convene in closed session with all Board members present to continue discussions from earlier. Chairperson Tillemans then had to excuse himself from the meeting for an appointment and left Vice Chairperson Totheroh to preside in his stead.

OPEN SESSION

Vice Chairperson Totheroh recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 1:25 p.m. with all Board members present except Chairperson Tillemans.

REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

County Counsel Marshall Rudolph reported that no action was taken during closed session that is required to be reported.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairperson Totheroh adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m. to a special session scheduled for 9 a.m. April 7, 2017 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*