

# MINUTES



# County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

**December 19, 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 December 19, 2017, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Mark Tillemans, presiding, Dan Totheroh, Jeff Griffiths, and Matt Kingsley. Absent: Rick Pucci

*PUBLIC COMMENT* Chairperson Tillemans asked for public comment during the first public comment period.

Earl Wilson of Lone Pine informed the Board about several recent installations of LED lighting in Southern Inyo and said he would provide more detail when the Inyo County Dark Sky Group holds a workshop with the Board at a future meeting.

*CLOSED SESSION* Chairperson Tillemans recessed open session at 8:34 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 (two cases); No. 3 **CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS [Pursuant to Government Code §54956.8]** – Property: APN 010-490-12, Bishop, California. Agency Negotiators: Kevin Carunchio, County Administrator; and Marshall Rudolph, County Counsel. Negotiating Parties: Inyo County and Inyo County Development LLC. Under Negotiations: price and terms of payment.

*OPEN SESSION* Chairperson Tillemans recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:06 a.m. with all Board members present.

*PLEDGE* CAO Kevin Carunchio 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.

*PUBLIC COMMENT* Chairperson Tillemans asked for public comment during the second public comment period.

Earl Wilson of Lone Pine had questions related to the Special Board Meeting scheduled for December 21. He asked whether the title of the ordinance up for approval at that meeting excludes medicinal cannabis operations and if there was a medical dispensary in the Bishop area, because he believes there is, although he doesn't want to get the operators in trouble. County Counsel Rudolph explained the proposed ordinance extends an existing moratorium on cannabis activity, medical included. He said these activities are currently prohibited under the County's permissive zoning, so any existing operations may not be operating lawfully.

Beth Porter of Olancha read from a letter that was distributed to the Board, expressing the community's gratitude for not including any cannabis-activity licenses for the Olancha/Cartago area in the proposed zoning ordinance, but also her disappointment over other areas of the proposed cannabis regulations and her belief that commercial development of industrial hemp should be prohibited in Inyo County.

Bob Olin of Olancha said he agreed with Ms. Porter and is very concerned about cultivation and commercialization in the Olancha-Cartago area. He thanked the Board for its support.

**COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT  
REPORTS**

Chairperson Tillemans opened the floor to Department Reports and there was no-one wishing to address the Board.

**CAO – HOLIDAY DOOR DECORATING CONTEST** With the help of Budget Analyst Denelle Carrington, CAO Carunchio announced the results of the Fifth Annual Inyo County Offices Holiday Door Decoration Contest. The winner of the 2017 Charlie Brown Door award was Child Support Services and 2017 Best Door award winner was Adult Services Division of HHS. Carunchio explained the Best Door winner receives a pizza party that is not paid for with County funds, but rather with entry fees and Administration passing the kitty to make up any difference. He reminded staff and members of the public present that there would be a holiday dessert potluck in the foyer following today's meeting.

**INTRODUCTIONS** HHS Deputy Director - Public Health and Prevention Anna Scott introduced the following new HHS employees: Jean Bigham, Integrated Caseworker III, Marissa D. Hobbs, Registered Nurse, and Timothy Whitney, In-Home Supportive Services Nurse.

**INFORMATION SERVICES – LUCA OPERATION PARTICIPATION** Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve Inyo County's participation in the Local Update Census Addresses (LUCA) Operation in support of the U.S. Census Bureau's decennial census of 2020. Motion carried unanimously, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

**PW – WATER DEPT. ROOF PROJECT N.O.C./RESO# 2017-59** Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve a resolution titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California Authorizing the Recording of a Notice of Completion for the Water Department Roof Sealing Project." Motion carried unanimously, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

**PW – WILDER BARTON CONTRACT AMENDMENT 2** Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve Amendment 2 to current Standard Contract No. 116 with Wilder Barton for the operation and maintenance of the Independence, Laws and Lone Pine town water systems, extending the term through December 31, 2018, unless terminated earlier, and increasing the total contract amount not to exceed \$924,300, contingent upon the Board's adoption of future budgets; and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

**CAO – OKU SOLUTIONS P.O.** Supervisor Griffiths asked that this item be pulled from the Consent Agenda to Departmental for further discussion. CAO Carunchio noted that most who travel U.S. 395 have detected a deterioration of cell reception over the past year, particularly between Independence and Big Pine, which in addition to being an inconvenience and posing a public safety issue also creates perception problems from an economic develop standpoint. He said it's difficult to market Inyo County as a place to do business if you're dropping calls five miles outside of Bishop. He said staff has been looking into the matter and thought cell tower mapping – current locations, then ideal locations, first on County property, then Los Angeles-owned land and then outlying Federal lands – would be a good place to start. He said \$20,000 was included for the study in the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Board Approved Budget but finding someone to do the work proved difficult until Broadband USA was able to locate OKU Solutions. Chairperson Tillemans opened the floor to public comment. Earl Wilson of Lone Pine said he was concerned about the flashing red lights on some cell towers and asked that the County require them not to have lights and also said the consultants should be aware that the Aberdeen area is military airspace. He was informed that it is an FAA requirement for all towers over 200 feet tall to have them. Supervisor Kingsley said he is supportive of filling in coverage gaps and wondered whether the County could encourage providers to offer coverage in some of the smaller communities off U.S. 395. CAO Carunchio said he brought Darwin's need for additional coverage to the consultant's attention, and noted there is technology that could make it possible to reach Bishop Creek, Whitney Portal and other isolated areas. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve a purchase order to OKU Solutions in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 for costs associated with cell tower site mapping and related services. Motion carried unanimously, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

**AUDITOR-CONTROLLER – SS NUMBER TRUNCATION PROGRAM 2<sup>ND</sup> REVIEW** Auditor-Controller Amy Shepherd provided some background on the Social Security Number Truncation Program, which requires County Clerks to redact Social Security numbers from documents in order to create versions that can be released to the public. The program allows Clerks to charge an additional recording fee to help cover program implementation costs. She said the program has required her office to do two reviews – one in 2013 and one in 2017 – to make sure whether the fees charged were appropriate and whether the truncations were completed. She noted that Assistant Auditor-Controller Christie Martindale organized the second review and prepared the report now before the Board for approval. She said Martindale

found no findings and added that the fee is scheduled to sunset on December 31, 2017. Supervisor Griffiths asked whether the Board was going to be asked to extend the fee. Clerk-Recorder Kammi Foote said she recommended letting it sunset because her costs for redacting Social Security numbers are very minimal now, compared to when her office had to redact documents going back to 1980. Supervisor Griffiths thanked Martindale for putting the report together. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve the Second Review of the Social Security Number Truncation Program report prepared by the Auditor's Office. Motion carried unanimously, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

**CLERK-RECORDER –  
DOMINION VOTING  
SYSTEMS NEW  
VOTING SYSTEM**

Clerk-Recorder Kammi Foote appeared before the Board requesting authorization to enter into a contract with a vendor for a new voting system, noting it could be delivered and installed by mid-January. She said Inyo County was the first in California to go through the Request for Proposals process rather than selecting sole-source vendors, and by doing so saved the County and taxpayers a substantial amount of money. She also thanked the CAO and Auditor-Controller for helping to save an additional \$40,000 by suggesting an outright purchase over a lease agreement. She added that the contract includes an eight-year service agreement. Supervisor Griffiths pointed out that the last voting system cost the County \$700,000, and commended Foote for extensively and innovatively searching for the best solution for Inyo County. Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to: A) authorize the Clerk-Recorder to enter into a contract with Dominion Voting Systems, Inc. of Denver, CO for the provision of New Voting System in an amount not to exceed \$201,796 plus shipping for the period of the Agreement-effective date through December 31, 2025; B) declare Dominion Voting Systems, Inc. the sole-source provider for a New Voting System and Managed Services related to the New Voting System; and C) amend the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Election Innovations Budget (Budget 500202) as follows: increase appropriation in Equipment (Object Code 5650) by \$211,796 (*4/5ths vote required*). Motion carried unanimously, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

**HHS-BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH – CDHCS  
MENTAL HEALTH  
CONTRACT**

HHS Deputy Director - Public Health and Prevention Anna Scott presented for approval and ratification a standard, annual \$0 contract that sets forth the requirements for providing mental health services. Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to ratify and approve the performance contract between Inyo County Mental Health and the State of California, Department of Health Care Services for the provision of county mental health services for the one-year period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 and authorize the HHS Deputy Director of Behavioral Health, in her role as the County Mental Health Director, to sign both copies of each contract as well as complete the Certification Clause. Motion carried unanimously, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

**HHS-FIRST 5 –  
AMENDED BYLAWS  
APPROVAL**

HHS Deputy Director - Public Health and Prevention Anna Scott said the First 5 Children and Families Commission has approved a change in its bylaws to allow the inclusion of an alternate member from the Board of Supervisors, at the Board's request, and First 5 is now bringing the bylaws back for Board approval. She said the Board could also appoint an alternate now or, given the lateness in the year, wait until its annual committee appointments in January. Chairperson Tillemans thanked staff and County Counsel for their work on the change, and said he didn't think appointing anyone now was necessary. Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve amended bylaws for the First 5 Children and Families Commission adding an alternate member of the Board of Supervisors to its composition. Motion carried unanimously 3-0, with Supervisor Pucci absent and Supervisor Kingsley out of the room.

**HHS-FIRST 5 –  
COMMITTEE  
APPOINTMENTS**

HHS Deputy Director - Public Health and Prevention Anna Scott presented a list of nominees seeking appointment or re-appointment to the First 5 Children and Families Commission. Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to appoint and/or reappoint the following individuals to the First 5 Children and Families Commission: Eileen Dougherty to an unexpired three-year term ending December 5, 2018 to be filled by a parent; Amanda Miloradich to an unexpired three-year term ending December 5, 2018 to be filled by someone with experience in the early health field; Robyn Wisdom to a three-year term ending December 5, 2020 to be filled by a specialist in early childhood development; Melissa Best-Baker to an unexpired three-year term ending April 20, 2020 to be filled by the designee of the Health and Human Services Director, as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 130140; and Anna Scott to an unexpired three-year term ending April 20, 2020 to be filled by the Health and Human Services Director or his/her designee. Motion carried unanimously, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

*PW – INDEPENDENCE  
TOWN WATER  
SYSTEM EMERGENCY  
REPAIRS*

Public Works Director Clint Quilter presented a report on the status of the failing Independence Town Water System Transmission Main, noting that to address imminent failure of the pipe, staff has identified three separate actions that must be undertaken: 1. An emergency plan in case of near-term catastrophic failure; 2. Temporary emergency replacement of the transmission main; and 3. Permanent replacement. He discussed the three items in detail, including their costs and timelines. The emergency plan included installing a transfer switch for a cost of about \$15,000, to come from the Town Water System budget. Supervisor Griffiths encouraged Public Works to discuss the issue of excess water with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to ensure the County is not charged for water that's just going back into the greater Owens Valley water system. Quilter noted that the LADWP did the installation and has been very helpful, understanding that this issue needs to be compartmentalized from any other issues between L.A. and the County. He explained the temporary replacement involves renting 12-inch HDPE pipe to install above ground, and having it in place for up to two years while working on a permanent fix, which could cost approximately \$500,000 depending on what type of environmental analysis is required. Quilter said the County will have to look at other funding options at this stage, since the money likely won't be available in the budget. CAO Carunchio said Public Works has been doing a great job responding to the situation and being proactive, and he said he appreciated the Auditor-Controller's input on funding issues. Earl Wilson of Lone Pine agreed that any "excess water" coming out of the system now is essentially recharge, and noted the County could be eligible for certain matching grants. Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Chairperson Tillemans to authorized staff to proceed with emergency repairs to the Independence Town Water System Transmission Main as outlined by staff. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

*PW – BISHOP  
AIRPORT BUDGET  
AMENDMENT*

Public Works Director Clint Quilter requested a budget amendment to accommodate FAA funding for the Bishop Airport. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to amend the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Bishop Airport Apron Budget (Budget 630304) as follows: increase estimated revenue in Federal Grants (Object Code 4555) by \$154,375 and increase appropriations in Professional Services (Object Code 5265) by \$154,375 (*4/5ths vote required*). Motion carried unanimously, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

*PW- BISHOP AIRPORT  
ESTA PARKING LEASE*

Deputy Public Works Director Shannon Williams presented for approval a lease with Eastern Sierra Transit Authority for parking at the Bishop Airport. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to ratify and approve the Lease Agreement between the County of Inyo and Eastern Sierra Transit Authority, JPA for the parking space at the Bishop Airport for an initial period of two years with four, one-year options to extend, in an annual amount of \$3,312 payable to the County in monthly installments of \$276 beginning December 1, 2017 and ending November 30, 2019, contingent on the Board's adoption of future budgets; and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent on all appropriate signatures being obtained.

*PW – BISHOP  
AIRPORT ESTA  
OFFICE LEASE*

Deputy Public Works Director Shannon Williams presented for approval a lease with Eastern Sierra Transit Authority for office space at the Bishop Airport. Supervisor Griffiths noted that ESTA is moving ahead with plans to construct a separate facility which would free up more space in the terminal building. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to ratify and approve the Lease Agreement between the County of Inyo and Eastern Sierra Transit Authority, JPA for the terminal building at the Bishop Airport for an initial period of two years with four, one-year options to extend, in an annual amount of \$16,560 payable to the County in monthly installed of \$1,380 beginning December 1, 2017 and ending November 30, 2019, contingent upon the Board's adoption of future budgets; and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent on all appropriate signatures being obtained.

*CAO/COUNTY  
COUNSEL/PUBLIC  
WORKS – CREDIT  
RATING AGREEMENT  
APPROVAL*

County Counsel Marshall Rudolph presented to the Board a proposed agreement between the County and Inyo County Development LLC, wherein the latter will obtain a new credit for the County with which it believes it can obtain a better interest rate as it explores financing options as part of the Consolidated County Office Building Program. Rudolph also presented the terms of the agreement, under which the County will reimburse the developer for the cost of obtaining the credit rating if for, whatever reason, the County decides not to proceed with the project if Inyo Development is able to present a Basic Annual Rent that does not exceed 5% more than the amount it most recently proposed. Rudolph noted it has been 18 years since Inyo County had its credit rating reviewed and there are benefits to doing so regardless of the building project. After additional discussion, Supervisor Kingsley moved and Supervisor Totheroh seconded approving a Credit Rating Agreement with Inyo County Development LLC whereby it will obtain an updated credit rating for the County, the cost of which the County would potentially reimburse in the

amount of \$20,000 under terms specified in the Agreement, and authorize the County Administrator to sign. Motion carried unanimously, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

**RECYCLING & WASTE  
– PREFERRED SEPTIC  
CONTRACT  
AMENDMENT 1**

Assistant County Administrator Rick Benson presented a contract amendment he said was prompted by the recent floor rate increases put into effect for waste haulers. Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to ratify, approve and authorize the Chairperson to sign Amendment No. 1 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Preferred Septic and Disposal, Inc. to start on July 1, 2017 increasing the contract limit payable under the agreement from \$116,496 to \$157,407 and modifying the schedule of fees for the Olancha, Keeler, and Darwin Waste Removal Contract. Motion carried unanimously, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

**HERE IT COMES  
EMERGENCY**

CAO Carunchio reported that he, Emergency Management Specialist Kelley Williams, and Public Works Director Clint Quilter will be participating in an Applicants Briefing with CalOES regarding relief funds associated with the Here It Comes Emergency. Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley 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, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

**ROCKY ROAD  
EMERGENCY**

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths 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, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

**LAND OF EVEN LESS  
WATER**

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to continue the “Land of EVEN Less Water Emergency” that was proclaimed as a result of extreme drought conditions that existed until recently in the County, while considering how to address the ongoing hydrologic issues in West Bishop. Motion carried unanimously, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

**GULLY WASHER  
EMERGENCY**

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh 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, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

**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, with Supervisor Pucci absent.

**HHS-PUBLIC HEALTH  
– TOBACCO CONTROL  
PROGRAM  
PRESENTATION**

HHS Deputy Director - Public Health and Prevention Anna Scott gave a presentation regarding new funding and associated requirements for the tobacco control program, including staff's recommendation for development of a Tobacco Control Agreement and associated four-year tobacco control plan. She explained that Inyo County's tobacco control allocation has increased from \$150,000 in Fiscal Year 2016-2017 to \$369,105 in Fiscal Year 2017-2018, although annual funding is expected to decrease as more Californians quit smoking. She said with the new funding comes increased requirements – including staffing requirements – and new guidelines regarding minimum objectives. She said it also allows the addition of cessation efforts to the plan. Scott said Inyo County is being asked to submit a new tobacco control plan and associated budget to the State and sign an allocation agreement to receive the funding and acknowledge the program requirements. Supervisor Griffiths said he was trying to ascertain the risks of accepting the money, noting that if benchmarks were not met, the State could take away funding for positions it required the County to create. Scott acknowledged that the guidelines are a heavy lift, and of concern to small counties that are required to accept the funding for mandated programs. She said staff had identified two options: accept the allocation and implement goals with a mixture of County staff and outside contractors; or reject the funding and let the State take on the mandate of ensuring a tobacco control program continues in Inyo County. Scott said staff recommended the former option. CAO Carunchio complimented HHS for breaking down the options, which he said are mostly not good. He suggested the Board support staff's recommendation and noted that it's a positive step forward that some of the funding can be used for cessation. He added that if it's truly the goal of the Tobacco Control institution to put itself out of business, it's curious 55-56 percent of the available funding must go

toward staffing requirements. He said taking on new staff for a program that is ultimately supposed to disappear should be avoided at all costs. Scott said staff did try to demonstrate to the State that existing staff could do the work but they did not meet the State's requirements for Full-Time Equivalent positions. She said existing staff is already tied to other programs for which the County will lose funding if not does not add additional staff for tobacco control. Earl Wilson of Lone Pine expressed his displeasure with the tobacco control program and the non-smoking elite. Scott said staff would return with more specific decision points for the Board in the future.

**BOARD MEMBER AND  
STAFF REPORTS**

Supervisor Kingsley said he attended his first Drug Court graduation last week, for someone in the Fifth District, and found the experience inspiring.

Supervisor Totheroh reported on a disappointing Owens Valley Sustainable Groundwater Agency meeting, where, despite being given direction in October to return in December with their individual governing bodies' funding commitments, some OVGSA Board members were not willing or prepared to establish funding commitments.

Supervisor Griffiths said he also attended the OVGSA meeting and said the consequences of not having funding commitments in place is not having a fully constituted Groundwater Authority, without which the group cannot petition the State for a boundary adjustment and the State grant, if awarded, will remain in the hands of the County. He noted a seeming lack of faith, and said nothing prohibits funding levels from being adjusted if and when the grant is awarded. Supervisor Griffiths said he also attended the Night of Lights in Mammoth and the Drug Court graduation.

CAO Carunchio reminded the Board of the special meeting scheduled for Thursday and that no meeting will be held December 26. He also polled the Board as to whether it wanted to convene a meeting on January 2, and the consensus was yes. He also reported that Mammoth Lakes Tourism reported its consultant was receptive to corrective the errors about Bishop Airport in its recently released air service study.

**RECESS FOR LUNCH**

Chairperson Tillemans recessed the meeting for lunch at 12:12 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 1:18 p.m. with all Board members present except Supervisor Pucci, who was absent.

**COUNTY SERVICES  
YEAR-IN-REVIEW**

CAO Carunchio introduced the Year-in-Review reports from County Departments, prefacing the presentations with the observation that counties across the nation are seeing increasing mandates and decreasing funds with which to deliver those required services. He said it's a testament to Inyo County departments and staff that they not only provide those services day in and day out, but do it well with limited resources. He said he doesn't think there's a single County department or office that doesn't take on more work or initiatives in addition to their mandates, and that is also worth celebrating and another testament to the quality and dedication of County staff at every level.

**Assessor Dave Stottlemyre reported that following highlights:**

- Established cordial, professional yet uncompromising relationships with large taxpayers, resulting in savings to the County in terms of money and staff time.
- Created an in-house process to improve allocation of appraisal values to land.
- Added 2,600 new mining claims to the tax roll, bringing the total to about 7,000.
- Found new ways to improve operations and overcoming daily challenges with a fairly new staff with less than half the institutional knowledge the office had before the election in 2014 and after other staffing changes.
- Had an annual assessment roll of approximately 20,900 secured and unsecured accounts with approximate value of \$4.175 billion (after exemptions).
- Conducted approximately 300 required roll changes.

**D.A. Tom Hardy reported the following highlights:**

- Introduced a case management system that has reduced paper use by 95%, with most processing of reports being done electronically.
- Eliminated the backlog of criminal prosecutions in Inyo County, meaning basically every case over a year old has been resolved in some manner.
- Helped to reduce the incidents of same-day jury cancellations by working to make final offers to defendants in advance of the days jurors are summoned for duty.
- Reached full staffing levels, and created a non-sworn D.A. Investigator Assistant position that will reduce Safety Budget costs while still allowing for a high level of

service for the public.

- Had members of the D.A.'s Office participate on the Eastern Sierra Baker to Vegas relay team, and fielding a team for the Eastern Sierra Police Officers Association's Pigs and Pistols Pistol Shoot.

**Deputy Public Works Director Shannon Williams (aided by Road Superintendent Chris Cash and Senior Civil Engineer Mike Errante) reported the following highlights:**

- Despite dealing with two separate states of emergency, maintained daily operations and completed numerous projects.
- Completed first year of Building and Safety contract with the City of Bishop.
- Devoted 3,763.5 man hours (including 1,293.5 overtime hours) to plowing County roads, in addition to 1,849 man hours spent on emergency openings at Whitney Portal and Horseshoe Meadows, and preparing for and mitigating impacts of the excessive runoff.
- Continued with work toward obtaining Part 139 Certification for the Bishop Airport, including the preparation of a Draft Airport Certification Manual and Draft Certification Plan
- Completed \$251,000 worth of deferred maintenance, performing \$36,000 worth of emergency maintenance, spending \$908,000 on projects from Tecopa to Independence, completing \$2.48 million worth of work at the Bishop Airport, and finishing \$960,000 worth of emergency road repairs and openings, for a grand total of \$4,635,000 worth of projects.
- Spending \$1,101,000 with local contractors and vendors.

**Sheriff Bill Lutze reported the following highlights:**

- Completed Phase I of the radio project, replacing all radios in patrol vehicles to improve communications with allied agencies and enhance officer safety.
- Public Information Officer Carma Roper became one of only three PIOs in California and one of 23 in the nation to complete the Master PIO program paid for by the federal government.
- Under the leadership of CAO Carunchio as the County's Director of Emergency Services, worked with other departments and allied agencies to prepare in advance for unprecedented runoff and conduct widespread public outreach, ultimately reducing the threats to structures and human life.
- Graduated 6 deputy sheriffs from the academy, and hired 5 correctional officers (three of which have completed the academy), and 2 dispatchers.
- Saw continued success with the programs at Inyo County Jail, where 7 individuals graduated from the Moral Reconciliation Training (MRT) program, 7 graduated from Anger Management and Substance Abuse, 4 completed Life Skills, 20 completed Parenting Skills, and 7 completed Thinking for Good, and, as part of the MRT and other programs, inmates enthusiastically made 127 Christmas stockings for the local VFWs to distribute to underprivileged kids.
- Responded to 6,528 calls for service and made 5,474 deputy-initiated calls; personnel made 222 felony arrests and 343 misdemeanor arrests; and investigators handled 154 cases, of which 63 were burglaries, 3 were attempted homicides, and 7 were sex cases.

**Ag Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures Nate Reade reported the following highlights:**

- Faced record numbers of mosquitoes due to the excessive runoff, trapping 57,399 mosquitoes – 9 times the amount caught in an average season (6,461) and sending in 94 mosquito sample pools for disease testing compared to the average 9 or 10.
- Kept those record numbers of mosquitoes in check by adding a seasonal employee, having employees from other programs in the department become licensed for mosquito control work, and ultimately putting down 10 times the amount of larvicide that they usually do.
- Completed the Agriculture Economic Study.
- Became an integral part of the effort to develop Countywide regulations for medical and recreational commercial cannabis use.
- Acquired a new heavy-capacity weight truck.
- Fielded a lot of complaints in the Weights & Measures program, including gas pumps jumping, people not getting discounts on fuel cards pursuant to cardholder agreements, poor fuel quality – which resulted in some fuel having to be sent out of the County and replaced with fuel up to standards – and people not receiving their full cords of firewood, all while inspecting 1,200 devices in Inyo and Mono counties.

- Convinced the Department of Pesticide Regulation to sponsor local pesticide education seminars for free.
- Brought staffing levels up to capacity with talented people in key positions.

**Information Services Director Scott Armstrong reported the following highlights:**

- Since June, hired an Office Technician, Program Analyst, and Network and Program Analyst.
- Began live streaming Board meetings five weeks ago to start testing the system in anticipation of a “go-live” date and eventual incorporation with the automated agenda.
- Replaced 125 computers as part of the annual Tech Refresh and upgraded operating systems to Windows 10, bringing Inyo ahead of most counties in California.
- With the coordination of Public Works, stabilized the temperature in the data center to increase equipment longevity and reduce risk of failure.
- Helped facilitate a string of office moves by uninstalling and reinstalling computers, phones and other equipment when the D.A.’s Office and Child Support Services moved to East Line Street in Bishop and, in Independence, when Probation was moved to the Juvenile Center, the Assessor’s Office to a temporary space and back again, Public Works to multiple temporary spaces and back to their original offices, Planning and Environmental Health to temporary spaces and back, and eventually I.S. to a new, permanent location.

**HHS Deputy Director - Public Health and Prevention Anna Scott reported the following highlights:**

- Went live with telepsychiatry services at the beginning of December with the help of Information Services.
- Trained and certified 77 individuals from HHS, other County departments and community partners in five different evidence-based parenting education modules that helped to bring robust continuum of parenting education for parents of youth of all ages.
- Received a high rating on an evaluation of the Friendly Visitor Program, with enrolled aging consumers tying the program to an improved sense of wellbeing and noting an overall positive impact in their mood.
- In coordination with Juvenile Probation and other partners, led 9 outdoor youth events, including hikes, climbing events and natural history tours, beginning in summer and extending into fall.
- Conducted an annual consumer satisfaction survey and received 233 responses, with client satisfaction for HHS averaging at 86% department-wide overall, 91% of respondents indicating satisfaction with staff explaining programs and answering questions, and 80% indicating they would still choose HHS if other service options were available.

**Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters Kammi Foote reported the following highlights:**

- With the help of Information Services and the GIS coordinator, inputted all election districts into the Election Management System, a difficult task that meant entering information for special districts that have not held elections in decades.
- Held filing seminars for district secretaries to acquaint them with changes in election laws and assist in navigating the complicated filing process.
- Held two filing seminars, one in Bishop and one in Lone Pine, for residents interested in running for office.
- Made Inyo County the first county in California to provide 100% electronic filing of fictitious business statements, and have already seen a high percentage take advantage of the service.
- Purchased a new voting system that brings Inyo County’s equipment up to date and eliminates reliability concerns.

**Farm Advisor Dustin Blakey reported the following highlights:**

- In response to increase interest in 4-H from youth ages 5-8 who are too young for the traditional program, created a day camp with age-appropriate projects geared to long-term engagement.
- Spent additional time training 4-H volunteers as a result of new State regulations, with the end result being 41 volunteers for 7 clubs and 226 youth taking part in 52 projects.
- Continued the Nutrition Education Program, in conjunction in Kern County, and arranged to hire an educator to work exclusively in Inyo County schools.
- Obtained a USDA grant to work with local Tribes to determine whether the Food Safety Modernization Act will impact their Food Sovereignty programs and, regardless, to provide education about food safety for their community gardens.

- Completed additional Master Gardener training and began hosting monthly workshops for the public at the Community Garden in Bishop, which complemented the workshops being held throughout the region by the Master Preservers.
- Hosted a visit from UC Davis administration for the first time since the 1960s.

**Water Director Dr. Bob Harrington reported the following highlights:**

- Conducted extra monitoring of various projects, particularly the Lower Owens River Project, during the historic runoff season, which turned the LORP into more of a water disposal conduit for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power than the habitat and recreation project it was conceived as.
- Continued work on numerous grants, including the State Water Board grant that facilitated the Tecopa Water Vending Machine Project – a team effort that included heavy lifting from Public Works, contributions from Environmental Health, and ultimately participation from the Southern Inyo Fire Protection District and which finally concluded in 2017.
- Fulfilled Inyo County's obligation under the State Groundwater Management Act to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for its portion of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin by joining eligible local agencies in that basin in forming a multi-agency GSA.
- Fulfilled Inyo County's obligation under the State Groundwater Management Act to form a GSA for Inyo County's portion of the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin, minus the City of Bishop, which filed to become a GSA for its portion, as did Mono County and the Tri-Valley Groundwater District.
- Initiated steps to bring all four Owens Valley GSAs and several community services districts together as a multi-agency GSA through a Joint Powers Agreement – a move that in the long run is hoped to result in easier preparation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan and getting it endorsed by the State and implemented.

**Assistant County Administrator Rick Benson reported the following highlights:**

- **Motor Pool** – Continued to benefit from contract with Enterprise and bring in additional revenue through surplus vehicle auctions on publicsurplus.com; leased 10 new vehicles for departments and purchased outright 6 new patrol cars; staff developed internal procedures to improve operations and ensure departments are scheduling routine vehicle maintenance.
- **Library** – Completed the long-awaited automation project; added 1,700 new books to the circulation; began circulating e-materials; and joined a pilot project called the California Revealed Initiative, the objective of which is to digitally preserve fragile historic materials.
- **Museum** – Saw the relocation of the restored Slim Princess engine from Dehy Park to the museum's new train barn; installed a fully restored 12-foot mural donated by Manzanar National Historic Site; and worked with Public Works, Coso Geothermal and DWP on the effort to restore the charcoal kilns.
- **Advertising County Resources** – Incorporated the El Camino Sierra theme into all distributed advertising.
- **Parks** – Worked to prevent and mitigate impacts from heavy rains, snow and then spring runoff; gave staff more access to internet in the field to streamline operations; began installing fertilizer injectors into sprinklers; and saw a \$45,000 – or 15% - increase in revenue since the move to the Reserve American online campground reservation system in January.
- **Recycling & Waste** – Signed a new lease for the Bishop-Sunland Landfill with DWP, such as it is; and saw a \$140,000 in addition revenue over the past six months after bringing the Bishop scale online and adjusting fees at the landfills.

**Planning Director Cathreen Richards reported the following highlights:**

- Brought new staff up to speed and got department on track after widespread completed turnover in department.
- Devoted considering time to the effort to develop regulations for commercial cannabis activity in Inyo County, including facilitating 17 community meetings and updating zoning code.
- Delved into the issue of short-term vacation rentals, hosting 5 public meetings and developing a proposed ordinance that will come before the Board for consideration soon.
- Secured a \$290,000 Caltrans to plan for the Olancha-Cartago area after completion of the U.S. 395 bypass.
- Explored options for regulating the use of shipping containers.

- Wrapped up Phase 1 of the North Sierra Highway Corridor Study and Strategic Plan.
- Maintained an average rate of project processing amidst the major projects and while seeing an above average number of zoning violations.

**Auditor-Controller Amy Shepherd reported the following highlights:**

- Broke ground on the County's financial system upgrade project with Information Services and Personnel.
- Transitioned 13 of the local special districts off the County payroll onto their own payrolls.
- Received a Financial Transactions Reporting Award from the State.
- Processed over 15,000 checks, and posted and audited 2,500 journal entries and over 6,000 receipts – all while being short-staffed, which is a credit to the rest of the team for digging in deep to get the work done.

**Deputy Chief Probation Officer Jake Morgan reported the following highlights:**

- Implemented a re-entry court in collaboration with the Superior Court, HHS, D.A.'s Office, and Public Defenders that is currently serving 20 clients with more on the way, as well as a pre-trial services program that is helping to keep the jail population at a manageable number.
- Rehabilitation specialists began providing programs at Lone Pine and Bishop schools, including gardening, cooking, bike riding, and bike repair and other evidence-based programming like journaling and Thinking for Good, and collaborated with HHS over the summer on youth programs.
- Continued to work with HHS on Continuum of Care Reform, resulting in low juvenile caseloads and Probation Officers being able to now commit their time primarily to high-risk, high-needs youth.
- Graduated three individuals so far from the Moral Reconation Training offered in crossover with the programs offered at the Jail.
- Engaged in public safety and enforcement activities such as warrant sweeps and probation searches.
- Julie Weier was awarded the Regional Probation Officer of Year Award by the Chief Probation Officers of California, out of well over 1,000 probation officers in the region.
- Hired a new deputy probation officer.
- Saw the following three success stories out of many others: A young man in 20s facing a lengthy prison sentence entered the Drug Court program on Jan. 11, 2016, graduated on May 24, 2017, on Dec. 14 was offered a full-time position at Caltrans and remains drug-free; another individual, a lifelong Probation client who went through both the juvenile and adult systems, also graduated Drug Court and a now holds management position in Bishop, providing jobs for other Drug Court clients and remaining a drug-free and a very productive member of the community; and a woman on Probation for multiple public intoxication arrests, for being found passed in public in the winter, who virtually lost her family, is now over 6 months sober and has re-established good, positive relations with her kids thanks in part to the good case work of her Probation Officer.

**Treasurer-Tax Collector Alisha McMurtrie reported the following highlights:**

- Conducted a public auction for the first time in four years, moving about 75 properties back into productive taxpayer hands.
- Reached full staffing levels again.
- Saw a 98.6% collection rate – among the top 5 percentile in the state – due to the responsibility and commitment of local taxpayers.
- Neared completion on the Treasury Security Project with the help of Public Works and for the sake of both staff and the public, in advance of the State's moratorium on commercial cannabis taxes ending January 1.
- Had an extremely successful year for the loan program, which helped the Sierra Highlands Community Services District purchase property for installation of a new well and offered a quick 35-day loan, that's already been paid back, to the Southern Inyo Hospital District so it could qualify for State and Federal reimbursement funds critical to continued hospital operations.

**Environmental Health Director Kathe Barton reported the following highlights:**

- Responded to numerous environmental issues related to the severe runoff, including sewage ponds not percolating, the "Big Stink" in Lone Pine, and the unprecedented need to close the water system at Whitney Portal.
- Added a part-time lab tech position that freed up other staff to go out into the field.

- Began effort to reorganize the Bishop and Independence offices to create a better environment and do more cross-training so that all staff members will be able to answer questions from the public.

**County Counsel Marshall Rudolph reported, as highlights, his office providing guidance, assistance, and input on the following projects and/or issues spearheaded, undertaken or faced by other departments:**

- Commercial cannabis regulations; development of the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority; too many Los Angeles Department of Water and Power issues to mention; labor negotiations; historic runoff and related stream alteration issues; a complicated document transfer issue in the Clerk's Office; development of a short-term vacation rental ordinance; a number of fee updates, including those charged by County Counsel; a major overhaul of the County's septic system regulations; and continued negotiations and other work related to the Consolidated Office Building project that may be coming to a conclusion soon.

CAO Carunchio echoed the sentiment shared by several department heads in their reports that nothing gets accomplished in a vacuum, and cited specific projects that were successful as a result of multiple departments working together, such as the Tecopa Water Vending Machine, the relocation of several departments over the summer, and the ongoing Continuum of Care implementation. He also mentioned the budget process, which was contingent on the budget team working together and departments having realistic expectations and living within their means, although he did acknowledge that several departments noted they received the resources they needed this year. CAO Carunchio summarized the major issues of 2017 – weather, water, cannabis, the recruitment of three department heads after some well-earned retirements, the Road Department working around the clock from January to June, and the effort to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency. He also cited the launch of Phase 1 of the El Camino Sierra project, work to get the LORP Water Trail project going, and projects in the hopper for 2018. He thanked everyone for their efforts and said it was a privilege to work with them. Supervisor Kingsley said he thinks Inyo County is crafting some of the most innovative cannabis regulations in the State and said it's a tribute to staff that they address such a wide range of public sentiment. He said he's proud of staff's management of the David-versus-Goliath situation that is dealing with LADWP and in general feels lucky to work with County staff on historic and non-historic issues alike. Supervisor Griffiths said he shared those feelings and said this annual exercise is important to avoid losing sight of the amazing things the County as one big family is able to accomplish. Supervisor Totheroh said the Year in Review is a chance to hear about all of the other things departments are able to do amidst the very challenging issues and called staff an incredible group of people who work well together to serve the public. Chairperson Tillemans said he felt a sense of teamwork and encouraged staff to hold on to that throughout the year. He noted that everyone faces adversity but it's how one reacts to it that determines one's character, and he said he saw great character among staff.

**ADJOURN**

Chairperson Tillemans adjourned the meeting at 3:11 p.m. to a special session at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, December 21, 2017 at the County Administrative Center in Independence.

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Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

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

by: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Darcy Ellis, Assistant*