

# MINUTES



# County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

**February 26, 2019**

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 February 26, 2019, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Rick Pucci, presiding, Dan Tothoroh, Jeff Griffiths, and Mark Tillemans. Absent: Matt Kingsley.

*Public Comment* Chairperson Pucci asked for public comment during the first public comment period and there was no-one wishing to address the Board.

*Closed Session* Chairperson Pucci recessed open session at 9:31 a.m. to convene in closed session with all Board members present except Supervisor Kingsley to discuss the following items: **No. 2 CONFERENCE WITH COUNTY'S LABOR NEGOTIATORS [Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6]** – Regarding 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); IHSS Workers; Law Enforcement Administrators' Association (LEAA). Unrepresented employees: all. County designated representatives – Administrative Officer Clint Quilter, Assistant County Administrator Rick Benson, Deputy Personnel Director Sue Dishion, County Counsel Marshall Rudolph, and Assistant County Counsel John Vallejo.

*Open Session* Chairperson Pucci recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:02 a.m. with all Board members present except Supervisor Kingsley, who was absent.

*Public Comment* Chairperson Pucci asked for public comment during the second public comment period.

Nancy Masters, Nina Weisman and Mary Roper of the Independence Civic Club thanked the County for the use of the American Legion Hall and presented a new flag pole and American flag the club purchased for the facility.

An Independence resident expressed concern about the County's tree-trimming operations and their impact on raptor nesting sites, and said an arborist should be consultant beforehand.

Ms. Weisman said she has witnessed a decline in the health of Independence's trees over the past 13 years for a variety of reasons, including a lack of knowledge on proper trimming and care techniques in both residents and County staff.

Earl Wilson of Lone Pine said County crews are guilty of "over-cutting" trees in Lone Pine and concurred that an arborist should be consulted.

Dave Jette and Ms. Masters wished to speak about the tree in the right-of-way at 345 W. Market St. and were informed that the public comment period was reserved for items not calendared on the agenda and that they could speak to the matter when the Board got to that specific agenda item.

*Pledge* Supervisor Griffiths led the Pledge of Allegiance.

*Report on Closed Session* County Counsel Rudolph reported that no action was taken during closed session that is required to be reported.

*County Department Reports* HHS Director Marilyn Mann distributed to the Board copies of an EMT recruitment flyer describing the dire countywide EMT shortage.

Planning Director Cathreen Richards announced the Planning Commission will be hosting a workshop tomorrow in Independence on a potential dark skies ordinance.

Environmental Health Director Kathe Barton reported that her office is working on a response to the State Water Resources Control Board's email of February 22 regarding initiation of local primacy revocation action.

*HHS-Behavioral  
Health – Addictions  
Counselor III*

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 one (1) Addictions Counselor III exists in various non-General Fund HHS budgets, as certified by the HHS Director and concurred with by the County Administrator and the Auditor-Controller; B) whereas it is unlikely that the vacancy could be filled by internal candidates meeting the qualifications for the position, an open recruitment is more appropriate to ensure qualified applicants apply for the specialized position; and C) approve the hiring of one (1) Addictions Counselor III, Range 64 (\$3,964 - \$4,817). Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*HHS – Add HHS  
Specialist IV (Delete  
Rehab Specialist)*

Moved by Supervisor Tillemans and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to:

- A) Change the Authorized Strength in HHS by:
  - 1. Deleting one (1) Rehabilitation Specialist, Range 60 (\$3,612 - \$4,387) and
  - 2. Adding one (1) HHS Specialist IV, Range 60 (\$3,612 - \$4,387); and
- B) Find that, consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy:
  - 1. The availability of funding for the requested position exists, as certified by the HHS Director and concurred with by the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller; and
  - 2. Where internal candidates may meet the qualifications for the position, the vacancy could possibly be filled through an internal recruitment, but an external recruitment is more appropriate to ensure qualified applicants apply; and
  - 3. Approve the hiring of one (1) HHS Specialist IV, Range 60 (\$3,612 - \$4,387); and
  - 4. If an internal candidate is hired into the HHS Specialist IV position, authorize HHS to backfill the resulting vacancy.

Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*Public Works-  
Building &  
Maintenance –  
Seasonal Building &  
Grounds Worker*

Moved by Supervisor Tillemans and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths for the Board to find that, consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy: A) the availability of funding for one (1) Seasonal Building and Grounds Worker exists within the Building and Maintenance Department budget, as certified by the Public Works Director and concurred with by the County Administrator and the Auditor-Controller; B) where internal candidates may meet the qualifications of the position, the vacancy could be filled through an internal recruitment, but an open recruitment is more appropriate to ensure qualified applicants apply; and C) approve the hiring of one (1) Seasonal Building and Grounds Worker, Range PT050 (\$15.35 - \$18.63/hr.), contingent upon the adoption of future budgets. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*Road Department –  
2 Equipment  
Mechanic I-II's*

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths for the Board to find that, consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy: A) the availability of funding for two (2) Equipment Mechanic I/II positions exists in the Road Budget, as certified by the Public Works Director and concurred with by the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller; B) where internal candidates may meet the qualifications of the position, the vacancy could be filled through an internal recruitment, but an open recruitment is more appropriate to ensure qualified applicants apply; and C) approve the hiring of two (2) full-time Equipment Mechanic I's at Range 58 (\$3,444 - \$4,190 plus 2.5% tool allowance) or Equipment Mechanic II's at Range 60 (\$3,612 - \$4,387 plus 2.5% tool allowance), depending on qualifications. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*Parks & Recreation –  
Wright's Rainbows  
Sole-Source P.O.*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Tillemans to: A) declare Wright's Rainbows of Thatcher, Idaho a sole-source provider of private-hatchery rainbow trout; and B) authorize a purchase order to Wright's Rainbows in the amount of \$15,000 for the purchase of rainbow trout. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*Public Works –  
Fire System  
Solutions Contract*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Tillemans to: A) approve the five-year contract between the County of Inyo and Fire System Solutions, Inc. of Fresno, CA for annual fire sprinkler system testing and inspection services, in an amount not to exceed \$30,180 for the period of February 26, 2019 to June 30, 2023, contingent upon Board approval of future budgets; B) authorize the Chairperson to sign the contract, contingent on all appropriate signatures being obtained; and C) authorize the Public Works Director to sign all other contract documents, including change orders, to the extent permitted pursuant to Section 20142 of the Public Contract Code and other applicable law. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*Road Department –  
Cedar Tree Removal  
Discussion*

Road Superintendent Chris Cash presented a request to approve the removal of one cedar tree in the road right-of-way at 345 West Market Street, Independence, by County Road Department personnel. He explained that the Road Department periodically receives such requests and considers them in the context of the County's Tree Removal policy. He said the department is neutral with regard to this particular request from an adjacent property owner, noting that a professional assessment suggested that the tree could survive for decades with proper care. Supervisor Griffiths said the arborist's report was well done and thought the salient was that, although the tree's condition will continue to decline, its mortality can be slowed and it can live for a long time with consistent watering. He said he would be interested in letting the neighborhood work on its care. Independence resident Nancy Masters said the Independence Civic Club would be happy to tend to the tree through its water wagon project. Resident Dave Jette said he would reach out to the homeowner who requested the tree's removal to let her know the community wants to help care for the tree. Resident Linda Chaplin said she valued the variety of trees around Independence for their shade, beauty and character and said having an arborist on County staff would be a good idea. Lone Pine resident Earl Wilson suggested a tree-trimming training program for employees. Supervisor Tillemans noted concurrence among Board members to let the community attempt to care for the tree rather than have it removed. He thanked the Road Department for bringing the matter forward.

*HHS – CMSP Grant  
Application*

Supervisor Griffiths asked that the agenda item be pulled from Consent Agenda to Departmental for discussion. Supervisor Griffiths and Assistant HHS Director Meaghan McCamman discussed the impetus for the grant program and how much local discretion there might be with funding. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Tillemans to authorize HHS to submit an application for the County Medical Services Program (CMSP) Health Systems Development Grant Program, for an allocation not to exceed \$300,000 for a three-year grant period, to be used to support integration between behavioral health and health care providers, and to improve access to behavioral health services. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*BOS – Report on INF  
Plan Revision  
Objection  
Meeting/Work Group  
Assignment*

Supervisor Griffiths provided a report on the recent Inyo Forest Plan Revision Objection Resolution Meetings, which he and Supervisor Tillemans attended on behalf of the County. Supervisor Griffiths reported that the Regional Forester was amenable to suggested changes to the proposed Piper Wilderness Area but assigned a working group to reach agreement on the proposed South Sierra Wilderness in the next 30 days. Supervisor Griffiths suggested assigning Supervisor Kingsley to represent the County in the working group. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to appoint Supervisor Kingsley to represent Inyo County in the South Sierra Wilderness working group and to appoint Supervisor Tillemans as his alternate. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*HHS-Behavioral  
Health – DHCS  
Substance Use  
Disorder Contract  
Amendment 1*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to ratify and approve Amendment A01 to the Standard Agreement between the County of Inyo and Department of Health Care Services for Substance Use Disorder Services, recognizing an increase of \$1,183 for a total contract amount of \$1,291,765 for the period beginning July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020, and authorize the Chairperson to sign five original signature pages plus one original Certification form and one original California Civil Rights Law Certification. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*HHS-ESAAA – Mono  
County Agreement  
Amendment 2*

HHS Director Marilyn Mann presented for approval an amendment to the agreement with Mono County to provide ESAAA services to eligible residents, noting that HHS will begin work on a new area plan later this year. Supervisor Griffiths said it might be a good opportunity to examine the current model of delivering services to determine whether there is room for increased efficiencies. Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to ratify and approve Amendment No. 2 to the four-year agreement with the County of Mono for

provision of Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging services to Mono County eligible residents, in the total amount not to exceed \$94,812 for the period beginning July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 and not exceeding the total four-year amount of \$382,440 for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2020. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*Here it Comes  
Emergency*

Moved by Supervisor Tillemans and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths 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 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*Rocky Road  
Emergency*

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Tillemans 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 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*DV Down But Not  
Out Emergency*

CAO Quilter announced that staff recommended the discontinuation of the emergency declared for the 2015 Death Valley flood. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to discontinue (terminate) 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 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*Personnel – Road  
Commissioner Public  
Hearing/Michael  
Errante PW Director  
Contract*

As required by statute, the Board conducted a public hearing on the qualifications of Mr. Michael Errante as Inyo County Road Commissioner, opened at 10:57 a.m. and, with nobody wishing to speak, closed by the Chairperson at 10:57 a.m. Supervisor Griffiths noted that, after a nationwide search, the Board is confident it has found the most qualified person among those who applied for the position of Public Works Director/Road Commissioner, and is happy to have Errante in the job. Moved by Supervisor Tillemans and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to:

- A) Appoint Mr. Michael Errante as the Director of Public Works, County Road Commissioner, and County Fire Marshal, effective February 21, 2019;
- B) Ratify and approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Mr. Michael Errante for the provision of personal services as the Public Works Director/Road Commissioner at a monthly salary of \$10,851, effective February 21, 2019, and authorize the Chairperson to sign; and
- C) Approve Resolution 2019-07, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Amending Resolution 2006-06, Changing Salary and/or Terms and Conditions of Employment for Appointed Officials Employed in the Several Offices or Institutions of the County of Inyo," and authorize the Chairperson to sign.

Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*Public Comment*

Chairperson Pucci asked for public comment during the final public comment period and there was no-one wishing to address the Board.

*Board Member and  
Staff Reports*

Supervisor Tillemans reported attending the Technical Group meeting, and noted that he and Supervisor Tillemans and he and Chairperson Pucci have Tribal consultation meetings this week.

Supervisor Griffiths reported that he will be traveling to Washington, D.C. in a few days to attend the National Association of Counties Legislative Conference as well as a robust set of meetings organized by The Ferguson Group. He also reported attending a Financial Advisory Committee meeting, Child Care Planning Commission meeting, Bishop Chamber of Commerce luncheon, screening of the film "The Women in the Sand" in Lone Pine, and a Bishop City Council meeting.

CAO Quilter said he would also be traveling to the NACo Conference in D.C.

Chairperson Pucci reported attending a meeting of the Inyo County Fish and Wildlife Commission, and noted the Eastern Sierra will receive 646,000 pounds of planted trout in 2019 and that talks have resurfaced about reviving rearing operations at the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery and Conway Ranch.

Emergency Services Manager Kelley Williams noted that LADWP and Southern California Edison will provide an update at the next Unified Command meeting on their efforts to prepare for Sierra runoff, and also reported on efforts to help establish fire safe councils around the county.

*Adjournment*

Chairperson Pucci adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 12, 2019 in the County Administrative Center in Independence.

---

Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

*Attest: CLINT G. QUILTER  
Clerk of the Board*

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