

# MINUTES



# County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

**June 11, 2019**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 8:36 a.m., on June 11, 2019, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Rick Pucci, presiding, Dan Totheroh, Jeff Griffiths, and Mark Tillemans. Absent: Matt Kingsley.

*Public Comment*

Chairperson Pucci asked for public comment during the first public comment period.

Charles Phinizy distributed a packet of materials to the Board, including copies of emails and photos. He spoke on behalf of the "Concerned Citizens of Wilkerson" to ask the Board to look into what he deemed the Planning Department's failure to hold Marty Williams/ Silver Canyon Storage to the conditions listed in the Conditional Use Permit approved by the Planning Commission and unsuccessfully appealed by residents in 2018. He said the permit holders were not abiding by the terms of the CUP and complaints were going ignored.

*Closed Session*

Chairperson Pucci recessed open session at 8:44 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 Leslie Chapman, Deputy Personnel Director Sue Dishion, County Counsel Marshall Rudolph, Health and Human Services Director Marilyn Mann, and Chief Probation Officer Jeff Thomson.

*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.

*Pledge*

CAO Quilter 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.

*Public Comment*

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

*County Department Reports*

Assessor David Stottlemire announced his office will be closed June 25-27 to accommodate on-site staff training by the vendor of the new property tax management system.

Auditor-Controller Amy Shepherd distributed to the Board copies of an article from a NACo publication about the importance of general reserves.

Public Works Director Mike Errante announced a meeting planned for 6-7 p.m. tomorrow at Round Valley School to update the community on the status of the Round Valley Road bridge and Birchim Road projects.

Planning Director Cathreen Richards reported on the West-Wide Energy Corridor Review workshop she attended in Reno that was hosted by the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and Department of Energy. She also noted that staff is in the process of identifying and hiring a firm to conduct an inventory of short-term vacation rentals in Inyo County.

Chief Probation Officer Jeff Thomson announced a Moral Reconciliation Training graduation June 24 at 1 p.m. at the jail, and said he had the privilege of attending the Palisade Glacier High School graduation where Probation Department staff members Jill Patton and Jason Greene were recognized for their early prevention work. He also said he and HHS staff will be attending a Continuum of Care Reform conference next week.

Emergency Services Manager Kelley Williams gave an update on a volunteerism conference and a CSAC Preparedness Summit she attended, as well as efforts underway in Aspendell to get the community better prepared for potential wildfires and floods.

*Introductions*

Public Works Director Mike Errante introduced to the Board new Assistant Civil Engineer Jacob Trauscht; and Water Director Dr. Aaron Steinwand introduced new Research Assistant Dana Grevenkamp.

*Public Works –  
Building and  
Maintenance  
Worker I-II*

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 one (1) Building and Maintenance Worker I-II exists in the Building and Maintenance 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 for the position, the vacancy could possibly be filled through an internal recruitment, but an open recruitment is more appropriate to ensure qualified applicants apply; and C) authorize the hiring of one (1) Building and Maintenance Worker I, Range 56 (\$3,292 - \$3,994), or II at Range 60 (\$3,612 - \$4,387), depending upon qualifications. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*Clerk of the Board –  
Amend Minutes of  
April 16, 2019*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve an amendment to the April 16, 2019 minutes and a corresponding Board Order to reflect that the approved Advertising County Resources payments to the Friends of the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery/Independence Fishing Derby, Inc. and Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce were to come from the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 Fiscal Year budgets, respectively. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*CAO-Advertising Co.  
Resources – Inverted  
Life, LLC Blanket  
P.O.*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve a blanket purchase order in the amount of \$12,360 payable to Inverted Life LLC to create video content for the Inyo County Economic Development Experience Video Project. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*CAO-Advertising Co.  
Resources – Final FY  
18-19 Payments*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve the following final payments from the 2018-19 Fiscal Year Advertising County Resources Budget: \$1,875 to the Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau for the 2019 Blake Jones Trout Derby, and \$3,303 to the Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce for the 2019 Wild Wild West Marathon. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*Personnel – Leave-  
of-Absence-Without-  
Pay Request*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to grant the employee leave-of-absence-without-pay request from June 11, 2019 through September 10, 2019, in accordance with Article X, Leaves, 10.4(a) of the Inyo County Personnel Rules and Regulations. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*Planning-Yucca  
Mountain –  
Hydrodynamics  
Contract  
Amendment 3*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve Amendment No. 3 to the contract between the County of Inyo and the Hydrodynamics Group, to amend the term to be July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2020, 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 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*Planning-Yucca  
Mountain – Partner  
Engineering/Zdon  
Contract  
Amendment 3*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve Amendment No. 3 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Partner Engineering and Science, Inc./Andy Zdon, to amend the term to be July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2020, 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 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*Public Works –  
LP/DV Airport  
Runway Project  
Plans & Specs*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve the plans and specifications for the Runway Rehabilitation Project at the Lone Pine/Death Valley Airport; B) authorize the Public Works Director to advertise and bid the project; and C) authorize the Public Works Director to sign the forthcoming Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Project (AIP) funding Grant Agreement for the Runway Rehabilitation Project at the Lone Pine/Death Valley Airport. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*Road Department –  
Cascade Software  
Agreement*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve the agreement between the County of Inyo and Valsoft Corporation, Inc. dba Cascade Software Systems, Inc. for the provision of software maintenance and support services for the Road Department's Cost Accounting Program, in an amount not to exceed \$12,963.03 for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, contingent upon the Board's adoption of the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*Ag Commissioner –  
2018 Annual Crop &  
Livestock Report*

Ag Commissioner Nate Reade presented the 2018 Annual Crop and Livestock Report, reviewing for the Board the numbers specific to Inyo County for livestock and livestock products, field crops, fruit and nut crops, nursery products, apiary production, and vegetable crops. Reade reported an overall 13% increase in Inyo County totals over 2017.

*Water Department –  
FY 19-20 LORP  
Annual Work Plan*

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to adopt the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 LORP Annual Work Plan, contingent upon Los Angeles doing the same. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*Water Department –  
OV Groundwater  
Basin Reprioritization  
Workshop*

Water Director Dr. Aaron Steinwand presented an informal workshop regarding the implications of the Department of Water Resources' release of a draft report reprioritization of the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin. He presented a list of options for the Owens Valley Groundwater Association to proceed if the DWR reprioritizes the OV Groundwater Basin low-priority, a designation that does not require groundwater basins to form groundwater sustainability agencies or develop groundwater sustainability plans. The options included continuing with the development of an enforceable GSP with no threat of State intervention or disbanding, or even continuing work on the GSP but not implementing it until it's needed. Supervisor Totheroh expressed his desire to see the OVGA continue as it has been. Supervisor Tillemans said he believes having another tool for groundwater management is a positive. Supervisor Griffiths said the County and several other entities went to a lot of trouble and expense to get the OVGA up and running and he would like to see it move forward with preparation of the GSP. He said once the GSP is developed, the OVGA can determine whether it should be implemented and if so, how. The Chairperson solicited public comment, noting that an email from Sally Manning of Big Pine would be entered into the record.

Earl Wilson of Lone Pine encouraged the Board to support a medium-level prioritization, for the sake of obtaining grant funding, because of environmental issues at Fish Slough, and to be able to regulate groundwater pumping on Owens Lake. Philip Anaya of Bishop said the impacts to homeowners' domestic wells as the result of groundwater issues in West Bishop three years ago probably could have been avoided were a GSP in place, and encouraged both the OVGA and County, regardless of the prioritization, to vigorously pursue grant funding for groundwater management.

*Water Department –  
Direction to OVGA  
Representatives*

The Board was asked to provide direction to the County's Owens Valley Groundwater Authority representatives in advance of the OVGA meeting scheduled for June 13, 2019 in Bishop. Water Director Dr. Aaron Steinwand reviewed the agenda, noting the OVGA would be receiving a presentation on the implications of the Department of Water Resources' release of a draft report reprioritization of the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin, similar to the one the Board received earlier today. The meeting would also include discussion and possible determination of OVGA board seats for associate and interested parties. Philip Anaya of Bishop said he supported the inclusion of associate and interested parties and asked the County to specifically spearhead the inclusion of the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District, as its contributions related to Owens Lake will be valuable. The Board discussed its previous direction with regard to this item and determined that it remained the same. Mr. Anaya further asked Supervisor Totheroh, as the Board's representative to the OVGA, to request that the OVGA formally ask the DWR for an extension of the comment period related to groundwater basin reprioritization. Chairperson Pucci said Anaya's request would be more appropriately made to the OVGA. Supervisor Totheroh noted that the agenda for the OVGA

meeting has already been published and next month's meeting will come after the DWR's decision on reprioritization.

*Public Works –  
Update on  
Commercial Air  
Service*

Public Works Director Mike Errante introduced an update from staff on commercial air service at the Bishop Airport and regionally, first noting that the County and Town of Mammoth Lakes were recognized with the Federal Aviation Administration's Herman C. Bliss Airports Partnership Award during the FAA Western-Pacific Region 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Airports Conference in Torrance on June 4. Associate Engineer Ashley Helms reviewed for the Board an upcoming taxiway rehabilitation project, a future runway rehabilitation project, and the FAA grants paying for each. She also discussed an estimated timeline for beginning commercial air service at the Bishop Airport, planned terminal upgrades, and the remaining steps needed to obtain Part 139 Certification in order to begin commercial service at the targeted time of fall or winter of 2020. Chairperson Pucci applauded Helms for her dedication and enthusiasm, noting that current CAO Quilter got the ball rolling on commercial service when he was Public Works Director and his former staff is doing a fantastic job continuing his efforts. He said the bottom line is the Bishop Airport is a necessity more than a convenience and commercial air service will be essential. He thanked CAO Quilter, Public Works, and consultants Wadell and Associates for their work.

*Here It Comes  
Emergency*

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 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*Rocky Road  
Emergency*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh 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.

*Clerk of the Board –  
Approval of Minutes*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve the minutes from the regular Board of Supervisors meeting of June 4, 2019. 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 on the public workshop he attended last Wednesday regarding the rate study and proposed rate increase for the Independence Town Water System.

Supervisor Totheroh reported attending a Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting Monday, and said he would be attending a Continuum of Care meeting and public meeting about the Round Valley Road bridge on Wednesday, a meeting Thursday of the Owens Valley Groundwater Association, and on Friday, meetings of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and Eastern Sierra Transit Authority. He also requested a future workshop on the public safety power shutoff program.

Supervisor Griffiths said he attended a board meeting for Inyo Council for the Arts and an IMACA staff meeting, helped in the Soup Kitchen Friday, and went to the opening dinner for the California High School Rodeo Association State Finals Monday, and planned to attend a special Bishop City Council meeting and the OVGA meeting Thursday, and the ESCOG/ESTA meetings on Friday.

Chairperson Pucci announced that it was his privilege Monday night to present the Tri-County Fairgrounds with the County's annual donation during the opening dinner for the California High School Rodeo Association State Finals.

*Adjournment*

Chairperson Pucci adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 18, 2018 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*