

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

June 18, 2019

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 9:32 a.m., on January 8, 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 and there was no-one wishing to address the Board.
- Closed Session* Chairperson Pucci recessed open session at 9:32 a.m. to convene in closed session with all Board members present except Supervisor Kingsley 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 §54956.9 (one case); No. 3 **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 10:10 a.m. with all Board members present except Supervisor Kingsley.
- Pledge* Chairperson Pucci 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.
- Earl Wilson of Lone Pine requested that Agenda Item #11 be pulled from the Consent Agenda for further discussion and an explanation.
- County Department Reports* HHS Director Marilyn Mann reported on a successful World Elder Abuse Awareness Day event at the Bishop Senior Center, and invited Board members to a similar event to be held Monday, June 24 a similar event at the Lone Pine Senior Center.
- Introductions* HHS Director Marilyn Mann introduced to the Board new Residential Caregiver Jordan Drew, new Office Clerk II Maria Martinez, and new HHS Specialist IV Jennifer Ray.
- HHS-Public Health – Prevention Specialist* 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) Prevention Specialist exists in non-General Fund budgets, as certified by the HHS 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 candidates apply; and C) approve the hiring of one (1) Prevention Specialist, Range 60 (\$3,612 - \$4,387). Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

<i>CAO – Allan D. Kotin & Associates Amendment No. 13</i>	Moved by Supervisor Tillemans and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve Amendment No. 13 to the contract between Allan D. Kotin & Associates and the County of Inyo, extending the term of the contract to the period of July 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019, 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.
<i>Motor Pool – Nielsen’s Equipment Bid Award</i>	Moved by Supervisor Tillemans and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to award a bid to Nielsen’s Equipment Maintenance of Mammoth Lakes, CA as the low bidder for the safety and communications equipping of two (2) 2019 Ford F150 Sheriff’s patrol vehicles in the amount of \$18,233.78. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.
<i>Recycling & Waste Management – Preferred Septic Contract Extension</i>	Moved by Supervisor Tillemans and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve the two options of extension in the contract between the County of Inyo and Preferred Septic and Disposal for chemical toilet services at the Big Pine Transfer Station and Independence and Lone Pine landfills in an amount not to exceed \$7,800 for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021, subject to giving written notice to the contractor before expiration of the agreement and to the Board’s adoption of future County budgets. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.
<i>Environmental Health – Solid Waste Hearing Panel Appointments</i>	Moved by Supervisor Tillemans and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to make the following appointments to the Integrated Solid Waste Independent Hearing Panel: Amy Weurdig to an unexpired four-year term ending April 19, 2023 in the “Public-at-Large” position; and Louis Molina to an unexpired four-year term ending April 19, 2023 in the “Technical Expert” position. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.
<i>HHS – 17-18 Child Welfare SIP Report</i>	Moved by Supervisor Tillemans and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve the Child Welfare System Improvement Plan (SIP) 17-18 Progress Report and authorize the Chairperson to sign the SIP cover sheet. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.
<i>Sheriff – 2019 USFS Reimbursements Application</i>	Moved by Supervisor Tillemans and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve the application for the 2019 Financial & Operation Plan for Controlled Substance Operations U.S. Forest Service reimbursements in the amount of \$5,000, contingent upon the Board’s adoption of the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget, and authorize the Chairperson to sign the agreement and all necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.
<i>Water Department – Mark Hill and Bill Platts Contracts</i>	Moved by Supervisor Tillemans and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve the contracts between the County of Inyo and Lower Owens River Project Memorandum of Understanding consultants Mark Hill and Bill Platts (dba Platts Consulting), serving as individual independent contractors, for the provision of LORP Biological Resources Consulting Services in the amount of \$32,655 for Mark Hill and \$32,655 for Bill Platts for a total amount not to exceed \$65,310 for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.
<i>Personnel – Atkinson, Andelson et al Contract</i>	A member of the public had requested the following agenda item be pulled from the Consent Agenda so an explanation could be provided. The Board agreed to move the item to the Departmental portion of the agenda. CAO Quilter explained this is an annual contract to utilize the services of a firm employing 400-plus attorneys specializing in labor and employment issues, and whose services are required for investigations and administrative procedures the County is obligated to undertake and does not have the resources to do on its own. County Counsel Rudolph noted that the firm conducts extensive work on behalf of the County, including representation at hearings and in litigation if necessary, that would otherwise have to be done by his office, which would require the addition of staff. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Tothoroh to approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo for the provision of Legal Services-General Labor and Employment Advice, in the amount of \$320,000 for the term 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.

*Coroner – Update on
Coroner’s Office*

Coroner Jason Molinar provided the Board with an update on operations in the Inyo County Coroner’s Office. He distributed a packet of information to the Board describing the Coroner’s roles and duties. Molinar noted that there are four individuals working a significant caseload, on call 24 hours a day/7 days a week. He said that, of the 270 deaths recorded last year, 175 had to be investigated due to the fact that people had not seen a doctor recently. He said the number increases each year with fewer people receiving check-ups. Molinar provided additional statistics, and noted he is trying to update some of the Coroner’s Office’s facilities as well as its website. Chairperson Pucci thanked him for his office’s participation in the Every 15 Minutes Program. Molinar thanked the County for giving his office the tools and resources it needs to conduct its investigations.

*Environmental Health
– Departmental
Update*

Environmental Health Director Kathe Barton provided an update on activities in her department. She also provided an update on the local primacy revocation process. She said she should have more information for the Board, from the State Water Board, after July 11. In the meantime, she said, staff continues to work hard on clearing backlogged projects and to work with local water systems, and she has added a request for an additional position into her Fiscal Year 2019-2020 budget. Barton also noted increased rodent issues because of the wet winter, which have resulted in some local restaurants having to close until Vector Control can remedy the situation. CAO Quilter said staff will look at the mechanics of adding the additional position earlier if needed.

*Planning – Haiwee
Pumped Storage
Project Letter*

Planning Director Cathreen Richards was scheduled to make a presentation regarding the application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a Preliminary Permit for the Haiwee Pumped Storage Project; however, she noted that the permit was denied by FERC subsequent to the agenda’s publication. She suggested that staff could still send a letter it drafted for the Board’s consideration, or wait until the project proponent’s next iteration of the project. She also suggested staff could send its own comments on land use and geographic issues, without having to come to the Board, in order to expedite comment delivery to FERC in the future. The Board agreed staff should send the current proposed letter, and expedite sending of future letters that do not include policy recommendations. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to authorize the Chairperson to sign and staff to send a comment letter to FERC in response to the Haiwee Pumped Storage Project and the Owens Valley Pumped Storage Project in the White Mountains. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*Sheriff – ESPOA
Donation, Budget
Amendment*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to: A) accept a donation in the amount of \$20,000 from Eastern Sierra Peace Officers Association for expenses associated with the K9 program; B) amend the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Sheriff General budget (022700) as follows: increase estimated revenue in Operating Transfers In (Revenue Code 4998) by \$5,700 and increase appropriation in Law Enforcement Special (Object Code 5313) by \$5,700; and C) authorize the Auditor to transfer \$5,700 from the Canine Replacement Trust to the Sheriff General Budget (*4/5^{ths} vote required*). Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*HHS-Behavioral
Health – Prior FY
Payment Ratification*

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to ratify and approve payment to UC Davis for a prior-year invoice in the amount of \$29,835 for training provided during the third and fourth quarters of Fiscal Year 2017-2018. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Kingsley absent.

*CAO – FY 19-20
Preliminary Budget*

CAO Quilter provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Preliminary Budget, thanking Senior Budget Analyst Denelle Carrington and Auditor-Controller Amy Shepherd for their hard work. He noted that the Preliminary Budget contains \$93,980,110 in expenditures and \$91,574,527 in revenues (\$59,820,040 and \$54,086,423 are for the General Fund, respectively), and also includes a Board-authorized list of expenditures including capital and road projects now underway, necessary contracts, fixed assets, and other justified expenditures. After seeking clarification on a couple of items, Supervisor Griffiths said he wanted to highlight the County’s approximately \$5.7 million payment to cover its share of unfunded liability costs, noting he is proud of the County for undertaking an ambitious payment plan but recognizes the difficulty it adds to balancing the budget. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and Supervisor Totheroh to adopt the modified Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Board Approved Budget as the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and approve the Fixed Assets as recommended by staff (*4/5^{ths} vote required*). 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 of the regular Board of Supervisors meeting of June 11, 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 read aloud a letter from Mike Carrington announcing his retirement from the Inyo County Water Commission. He thanked Mr. Carrington for this service. Supervisor Tillemans also announced that he will not be running for a third term, and intended to serve out the remainder of his current term, but wanted to give the public advanced notice in case anyone was interested in running for the Fourth District seat.

Supervisor Totheroh said he attended an Owens Valley Groundwater Association meeting last Thursday and meetings of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments/Eastern Sierra Transit Authority on Friday, and would be attending a Tribal consultation meeting in Bishop on Thursday.

Supervisor Griffiths said he met last Wednesday with the Eastern Sierra Continuum of Care group, attended a meeting last week with the group working on the Veterans Housing Project, went to the special meeting of the Bishop City Council on Thursday and the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority/ Eastern Sierra Council of Governments meetings on Friday, and planned to attend a meeting of the California Cannabis Authority in Salinas this Friday.

County Counsel Rudolph reported he would be attending a County Counsel's conference the remainder of the week.

CAO Quilter reported that budget meetings with County departments are underway and going well, and the Budget Team is on track to complete the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget by September.

Chairperson Pucci said he had the privilege of speaking at the opening night dinner for the California High School Rodeo Association Finals on June 10, and of being the auctioneer for the pie auction at Laws Railroad Museum's Father's Day celebration on Sunday.

Adjournment

Chairperson Pucci adjourned the meeting at 11:08 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 25, 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