

# MINUTES



# County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

**July 23, 2020**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in special session at the hour of 8:30 a.m., on July 28, 2020, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present via videoconferencing per California Governor Executive Order N-25-20: Chairperson Matt Kingsley, presiding, Dan Totheroh, Jeff Griffiths, and Rick Pucci. Absent: Mark Tillemans. Also present: County Administrative Officer Clint Quilter, Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Ellis, and County Counsel Marshall Rudolph.

*Pledge* Supervisor Pucci led the Pledge of Allegiance.

*Public Comment* Chairperson Kingsley asked the Assistant Clerk of the Board whether there was any public comment emailed for today's meeting for items not calendared on the agenda.

The Assistant Clerk of the Board said she had received none. Nobody requested to speak to the Board via the "hand-waving" feature on Zoom.

*COVID-19 Staff Update* HHS Deputy Director-Public Health Anna Scott provided an overview of Inyo County's current COVID-19 totals, noting that there have been six additional cases since July 9 and three of those are believed to have been community acquired. She said Inyo County's metrics still remain below the threshold that would trigger the county's addition to the State watch list, adding that both Kern and Mono counties have been added.

HHS Director Marilyn Mann said it's important for Inyo County to remain mindful of the fact that the county has limited hospital capacity, and to continue monitoring nearby counties. She said Inyo's relatively low numbers speak to the overall level of compliance in the county and the proactive measures officials have taken, such as the mask order. Mann noted that compliance still remains an issue for many.

Assistant HHS Director Meaghan McCamman reported that the County has launched a civil enforcement process and Public Health Officer Dr. Richard Johnson issued a beefed-up mask order last week that requires businesses to require customers to wear masks – so that it's essentially No Shoes, No Shirt, No Mask, No Service. She noted that the County has a team of about 4 staffers receiving and logging complaints about businesses being non-compliant, and if need to be, the County can issue a violation letter to confirmed repeat offenders, although staff would rather work with the businesses first. She said the County also doesn't want to be in the position of closing businesses, and has been doing whatever it can to avoid going down that path, but can if it needs to.

*HHS – Letter to State Requesting Local Determination* HHS Director Marilyn Mann introduced a letter requesting the State return to the policy the Governor brought forth in late May/early June allowing local determination based on local data. She said the recent blanket, statewide re-closing of certain industries was not warranted in certain areas, including Inyo County, where the rate of infection is well below the State threshold. She said the County hopes to be able to support local businesses in finding ways to help them reopen safely and stay open, based on the current situation in Inyo County, not statewide. Supervisor Griffiths said he supported the letter but does recognize that part of the reason the U.S. is failing at combatting coronavirus is inconsistent health orders and protective measures from one jurisdiction to the next. Mann said the coronavirus is not a hoax, and is particularly deadly for the elderly and those with comorbidity issues. She and Deputy HHS Director-Public Health Anna Scott said if Inyo County is granted local control, public health decisions will still be centered around available guidance for specific industries and data-driven.

Supervisor Griffiths said the messaging will be important, lest the public misinterpret the County's request. He said the County will continue to take the health measures seriously, which has kept Inyo's numbers low so far, and said even though the currently politicized environment is hampering the fight against the disease, the County will follow the safest course. Supervisor Griffiths did have a suggested addition to the letter, in the form of an introductory "thank you" to the CDPH for its support and actions statewide.

Chairperson Kingsley further suggested thanking the CDPH for being accessible and available when local officials have needed guidance and assistance.

Supervisor Pucci said he was confident in the County's self-determination ability as long as actions continued in line with medical and scientific data.

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve a letter to the State Department of Public Health and State Health and Human Services Agency in support of County local determination for the opening and closure of industry sectors to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Tillemans absent.

*Public Comment*

Chairperson Kingsley asked the Assistant Clerk of the Board whether there was any public comment emailed for today's meeting for items not calendared on the agenda.

She said she has not received any additional written comments. Nobody requested to speak to the Board via the "hand-waving" feature on Zoom.

*Adjournment*

Chairperson Kingsley adjourned the meeting at 9:14 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 28, 2020 in the County Administrative Center in Independence.

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Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

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

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