

# MINUTES



# County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

**May 18, 2021**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 8:32 a.m., on May 18, 2021, 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 Jeff Griffiths, presiding, Dan Totheroh, Rick Pucci, Jennifer Roeser, and Matt Kingsley. Also present: County Administrative Officer Clint Quilter, Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Ellis, and County Counsel Marshall Rudolph.

## *Public Comment*

Chairperson Griffiths asked if there was any public comment pending for items not calendared on the agenda.

Allan Pietrasanta of Bishop thanked the Board and staff for all of their hard work during the past, difficult year. He asked that the County coordinate with the City of Bishop on a solution to the need for a safe parking area for homeless individuals. He said the Board has a moral and legal obligation to ensure constituent safety, and noted that, for months, constituents have been asking for an agenda update on the issue. He asked that the Board proceed with that update with no more delay.

## *Closed Session*

Chairperson Griffiths recessed open session at 8:34 a.m. to convene in closed session with all Board members present to discuss the following item(s): No. 2 **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION – Pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code §54956.9** – Names of cases: *LADWP v. Inyo County et al.* (CA 5th District Court of Appeal Case No. F081389) and *Inyo County v. LADWP* (Kern County Sup. Ct. Case Nos. BCV-18-101260-TSC, BCV-18-101261-TSC, and BCV-18-101262-TSC); No. 3 **PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: County Counsel; and No. 4 **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 Griffiths recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:07 a.m. with all Board members now present.

## *Pledge of Allegiance*

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.

## *Public Comment*

Chairperson Griffiths asked if there was any public comment pending for items not calendared on the agenda.

The Assistant Clerk of the Board said she did not receive any emailed comments and nobody requested to speak to the Board via the "hand-waving" feature on Zoom.

## *County Department*

The Chairperson opened the floor to County Department Reports but there was nobody wishing to address the Board.

## Reports

### Introductions

The following new employees were introduced to the Board: William Cain, Office Technician II, Clerk-Recorder's Office; Takoda M. Hartman, Office Clerk II, District Attorney's Office; Andrew Howe, Fiscal Analyst, HHS; and Danielle Rose, Prevention Specialist, HHS.

### COVID-19 Staff Update

The Board heard staff's weekly update on the status of COVID-19 cases locally, as well as state and national trends. Staff also updated the Board on the distribution on vaccines and ongoing testing. HHS Director Marilyn Mann said Inyo County has completed its second week in the orange tier of the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy. She added that the emergency authorization for the Pfizer vaccine was expanded to include individuals 12 years and older as of May 12. She also clarified that despite the CDC's recent announcement that vaccinated individuals no longer have to mask, State and local guidelines currently remain in place.

Deputy HHS Director-Public Health Anna Scott said last week's vaccination rate of 72.2% dropped this week to 69.8% because of the denominator being increased with the age expansion. She said there are a lot of great community providers offering the vaccine who are working to get more of the Pfizer vaccine. Public Health Officer Dr. James Richardson said he expects the vaccination numbers to rise as more college campuses are requiring students to be vaccinated before they can return for the fall semester. He added that there was despair and confusion months ago but now there is a sense of optimism and relief. He said he believes Inyo County has probably reached herd immunity.

Wes French of Bishop spoke via Zoom, expressing his concerns about the vaccines and district of the medical establishments. He said it makes no sense to subject the population to an experimental vaccine when survival rates are so high, especially among youth. He also inquired about reports of any local adverse reactions to the vaccine and was told there were no major adverse reactions, with most people experience acceptable known reactions like sore arms and temporary flu-like symptoms.

### HHS-EMCC – EMS Co-Providers of the Year

HHS Director Marilyn Mann presented a proclamation honoring all local EMS provider and Ms. Bri Chappell-McGovern as 2021 EMS Co-Providers of the year, as nominated by the Emergency Medical Care Committee. She spoke of the incredible group of people's extreme dedication during the pandemic. Those whose work was highlighted are: the Olancho Volunteer Fire Department, Lone Pine Volunteer Fire Department, Big Pine Volunteer Fire Department, Bishop Volunteer Fire Department, Symons Ambulance, REACH/Sierra Life Flight, Southern Inyo Fire Protection District, Aspendell/South Fork Volunteer Fire Department, Bishop Police Department, Inyo County Search and Rescue, and Northern and Southern Inyo hospitals. Bishop Police Chief Joe Dell noted the past couple years have been challenging for all providers, but none have shied away from their duties – including transporting COVID patients to hospitals – despite the risk. He said local EMS providers and fire departments demonstrated true heroism. He also noted that Ms. Chappell-McGovern's assistance with logistics and training – and her unrelenting efforts to procure PPE – was critical. Chief Dell said he is proud of all of the providers and Ms. Chappell-McGovern and humbled to work with them. Big Pine Fire Chief Damon Carrington called Inyo County's response to COVID-19 a team effort, with Public Health, EMS providers, and hospitals all working together. He said everyone went to a lot of extra efforts to ensure the safety of providers, patients, and hospital staff.

Chairperson Griffiths read the proclamation aloud prior to a vote of the Board. Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve a proclamation titled: "Proclamation of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, Honoring All Inyo County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Providers and Bri Chappell-McGovern as Inyo County 2021 EMS Co-Providers of the Year." Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Griffiths passed along his gratitude, and noted that providers endured not just potential risk to themselves, but also the fear of bringing the disease back to their families. Supervisor Pucci thanked the first responders for making the brave choice to serve the public in this way and called both them and the families that support them heroes. Supervisor Kingsley expressed gratitude for the volunteers who stepped up at the start of the pandemic, when there was so much confusion, fear, and despair. Ms. Chappell-McGovern said she appreciated the recognition but even more so the support she received from the fire chiefs, because it doesn't do any good to distribute PPE if nobody is going to use it. She further commended them for having to go from fire chiefs to infectious disease protocol specialist

overnight. HHS Director Mann noted she would work with the Assistant Clerk of the Board to get copies of the resolution to each of the Co-Providers of the Year highlighted. Chief Probation Officer Jeff Thomson also offered his gratitude for the providers' service.

*HHS-Public Health & Prevention – Reclassify ELC B-PAR Case Investigators*

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to, contingent upon the approval of the ELC Cares Grant expansion plan and budget: A) approve the job description for COVID-19 Response Specialist; and B) change the authorized strength in the HHS Public Health and Prevention Division by reclassifying two (2) bilingual term-limited B-PAR Case Investigator positions at Range 60 with an expiration date of March 31, 2022 as COVID-19 Response Specialists at Range 60 (\$3,758 - \$4,564) for a contract period ending June 30, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS-Public Health & Prevention – ELC Disaster Program Manager*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to, contingent upon the approval of the ELC Cares Grant expansion plan and budget:

- A) approve the job description for Disaster Program Manager, a term-limited position;
- B) change the authorized strength in the HHS Public Health and Prevention Division by adding one (1) time-limited Disaster Program Manager position at Range 78 with an expiration date of June 30, 2023; and
- C) consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy:
  - 1. find that 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;
  - 2. find that the position can be filled by internal candidates meeting the qualifications for the position;
  - 3. approve the hiring of one (1) time limited Disaster Program Manager position at Range 78 (\$5,741-\$6,976), for a contract period ending June 30, 2023; and
  - 4. should the position be filled internally, authorize Public Health and Prevention to backfill the resulting vacancy.

Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS-Public Health & Prevention – ELC Position Term Extensions*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to, contingent upon the approval of the ELC Cares Grant extension plan and budget, extend the term-limited employment term of the COVID-19 Program and Grant Manager, the COVID-19 Response Coordinator, and the two Infection Preventionist positions to June 30, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS-Public Health & Prevention – ELC Administrative Analyst I-II*

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to, contingent upon the approval of the ELC Cares Grant extension plan and budget:

- A) change the authorized strength by adding one term-limited Administrative Analyst I/II in the Public Health and Prevention Division; and
- B) consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy,
  - 1. find that the availability of funding for one (1) term-limited Administrative Analyst I/II exists in non-General Fund ELC budget, as certified by the HHS Director and concurred with by the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller;
  - 2. find that 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
  - 3. approve the hiring of one (1) term-limited Administrative Analyst I at Range 68 (\$4,533 - \$5,508) or one (1) term-limited Administrative Analyst II at Range 70 (\$4,753 - \$5,781) for the period ending June 30, 2023.

Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS-Public Health & Prevention – ELC Prevention Specialist*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to, contingent upon the approval of the ELC Cares Grant extension plan and budget:

- A) change the authorized strength by adding one term-limited Prevention Specialist in the Public Health and Prevention Division; and
- B) consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy:
  - 1. find that the availability of funding for one (1) term-limited Prevention Specialist exists in non-General Fund ELC budget, as certified by the HHS Director and concurred with by the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller;
  - 2. find that, 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

3. approve the hiring of one (1) term-limited Prevention Specialist at Range 60 (\$3,758 - \$4,564) for the period ending June 30, 2023.

Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO – Gregory L. James Contract Amendment 10*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve Amendment No. 10 to the contract between Gregory L. James, Water/Environmental Attorney Regarding Natural Resources, and the County of Inyo by extending the term of the contract from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2022, contingent upon the Board's adoption of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget, and authorize the County Administrator to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO-Library – Troy Cauldwell Paint Sole-Source Contract*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to: A) declare Troy Cauldwell Paint and Stucco of Bishop, CA a sole-source provider of painting services; B) approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Troy Cauldwell Paint and Stucco of Bishop, CA for the provision of painting services in an amount not to exceed \$11,910.00 for the period of May 18, 2021 through August 31, 2021, contingent upon the Board's approval of the Fiscal Year 2021- 2022 Budget; and C) authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

*Recycling & Waste Management – Steve's Auto P.O. Increase*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to authorize the increase of a blanket purchase order in an amount of \$6,000, for purchase of equipment and vehicle parts from Steve's Auto, which is in addition to the existing \$15,000 blanket purchase order. Motion carried unanimously.

*Recycling & Waste Management – ACTenviro HHW Contract*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to: A) award the bid for the removal of household hazardous waste (HHW) to Advanced Chemical Transportation, Inc, dba ACTenviro of Merced, CA; B) approve the contract between County of Inyo and ACTenviro of Merced, CA in an amount not to exceed \$80,000 for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024 subject to Board approval and adoption of future County budgets, and C) authorize the Chairperson to sign the contract. Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS-Social Services – Evident Change Contract*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Evident Change for the provision of Safe Measures® Internet Reporting Services, in an amount not to exceed \$14,238.79 for the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023, contingent upon the adoption of future budgets, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*Probation – Noble Software Contract Amendment 6*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve Amendment No. 6 to the Agreement between the County of Inyo and Noble Software Group, LLC of Redding, CA, to extend the agreement from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, remove Section 23 and add Section 22.5 to the agreement, contingent upon the Board's approval of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS-Behavioral Health – Mental Health Matters Month Proclamation*

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve a proclamation declaring May 2021 as Mental Health Matters Month in Inyo County. Motion carried unanimously.

*BOS-Roeser – SHOPP Projects Comments*

Supervisor Roeser introduced a letter drafted to Caltrans offering the Board's feedback on two SHOPP-funded District 4 projects, as well as a compilation of comments from Big Pine and Independence residents. Supervisor Kingsley suggested adding the following language into the second to last sentence of the second to last paragraph (additions in bold): "We encourage design engineers to consider the features **and community input** that will provide the greatest opportunity for safety as residents and visitors interact on U.S. Highway 395 as it travels through **all of the communities.**" Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve a letter requesting Caltrans prioritize pedestrian safety when considering features to include in the Manzanar and Fish Springs pavement projects. Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS-Health & Prevention – ELC*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to ratify and approve the expansion on the agreement and budget between the County of Inyo and California

*Agreement & Budget Extension* Department of Public Health, for the provision of services under the ELC CARES Federal Grant for funding in an amount not to exceed \$1,631,761 for the period of January 15, 2021 through July 31, 2023, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets; and authorize the HHS Director to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*Sheriff – 2021 Controlled Substance Annual Operating & Financial Plan* Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to ratify and approve the 2021 Controlled Substance Annual Operating and Financial Plan between the County of Inyo and USDA Forest Service, Inyo National Forest for the provision of Controlled Substance Operations for a funding amount up to \$5,000 for the period of October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021, contingent upon the Board's adoption of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget, and authorize the Sheriff or designee to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO – Third Quarter Financial Report* CAO Quilter thanked his fellow members of the Budget Team – Auditor-Controller Amy Shepherd and Senior Budget Analyst Denelle Carrington – for their hard work and diligence in helping to compile the Third Quarter Financial Report. He also thanked department heads. In introducing the report, Quilter noted that Inyo County has fiscally weathered the pandemic much better than anticipated – in part by being nimble and having a solid base built by ongoing fiscal prudence. He reviewed for the Board the revenues and expenditures of both the non-General Fund and General Fund, and also discussed highlights and lowlights to consider moving forward. Supervisor Kingsley said he didn't expect to feel as good about the FY 2020-2021 budget at the start of the pandemic. He said Inyo County should be proud of the spot it is in, and said the CAO and his Budget Team provide really good advice for department heads and the Board to follow. Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to:

- A) accept the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Third Quarter Financial Report as presented;
- B) approve the specific budget action items and recommendations discussed in the report and represented in Attachments A & B, and authorize the Auditor-Controller to make the budget adjustments as listed in Attachments A & B (*4/5ths vote required*);
- C) authorize the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller to make any additional year-end adjustments, as may be necessary within each fund (*4/5ths vote required*);
- D) approve the Preliminary Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget Calendar (Attachment C) with regard to the proposed dates for the Budget Hearings and adoption of the Final Budget;
- E) direct the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller to prepare a modified rollover budget for the start of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and present it for approval on June 8th or June 15, 2021; and
- F) authorize the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller to transfer the balance of General Fund Contingencies on June 30, 2021 to General Reserves and Amend the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget to reflect changes if needed (*4/5ths vote required*).

Motion carried unanimously.

*Clerk of the Board – Approval of Minutes* Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve the minutes of the Board of Supervisors meeting of May 11, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Comment* The Chairperson solicited public comment for the final public comment period. The Assistant Clerk of the Board did not receive any emailed comments and nobody requested to speak to the Board via the "hand-waving" feature on Zoom.

*Board Member and Staff Reports* Supervisor Pucci reported he will have an Inyo County Fish & Wildlife Committee meeting this week and is busy helping to prepare for a safe and successful Mule Days Celebration next week.

Supervisor Kingsley said he has been busy with the Rural County Representatives of California and meeting with constituents and other agency partners, and will be participating in a panel discussion on disaster preparedness for the National Association of Counties.

Supervisor Griffiths reported being very busy and noted he will be attending another meeting on veterans housing tonight. He added that the group behind the dispersed camping summits has identified two locations in Inyo County where dumpsters would be helpful: Pine Creek and Division Creek.

*Adjournment*

Chairperson Griffiths adjourned the meeting at 12:44 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 25, 2021 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*