

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

January 14, 2025

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in special session at the hour of 9:03 a.m., on January 14, 2025, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Scott Marcellin, presiding, Will Wadelton, Jeff Griffiths, Jennifer Roeser and Trina Orrill. Also present: County Administrator Nate Greenberg, County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo, and Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Israel.

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Orrill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

The Chairperson asked for public comment related to items not calendared on the agenda and public comment was received from Mel Joseph and Trevor Warner.

CAO-Personnel – District Attorney Appointment

CAO Greenberg introduced the item and briefly explained the recruitment process for interested candidates wishing to serve out the remainder of former District Attorney Tom Hardy's six-year term. Greenberg noted that there was only one candidate interested in the position and the Board Chairperson invited the applicant (and current Acting District Attorney), Dana Crom, to provide a five-minute statement/presentation to the Board, after which each of the Board members asked questions which had been prepared in advance as well as follow-up questions.

Questions asked by Board members included:

- Can you describe your experience in the courtroom, specifically handling high-stakes cases?
- Discuss your approach to collaborating with law enforcement agencies and maintaining a productive relationship?
- Provide your perspective on effectively managing and leading a team.
- How do you foresee the District Attorney effectively engaging with the Board of Supervisors and Administration?
- What is your experience with community outreach and public speaking engagements?
- What is your approach to cases where mental health issues play a significant role?
- Explain your approach to prioritizing cases in times of high workload.
- What strategies do you employ to ensure fair and impartial prosecution, especially in the context of Inyo County's small communities?
- Provide your perspective and approach to cases involving juveniles.
- How do you approach plea bargaining?
- What do you think is the biggest challenge facing the local criminal justice system today, and how do you believe the incoming Inyo County District Attorney can help improve our criminal justice system?

The Chairperson inquired if there was anyone wishing to provide comment and public comment was received from Trevor Warner.

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to appoint Dana Crom to the office of District Attorney effective January 16, 2025, to serve out the remainder of the term expiring at noon on January 3, 2029. Motion carried unanimously.

Board members thanked Crom for applying and congratulated her on her newly appointed position.

Recess/Reconvene

The Chairperson recessed the meeting for a break at 10:02 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 10:17 a.m. with all Board members present.

*CAO-Personnel –
Treasurer-Tax
Collector Appointment*

CAO Greenberg briefly explained the recruitment process for candidates interested in serving out the remainder of former Treasurer-Tax Collector Alisha McMurtrie's four-year term and said that a letter of interest and resume had been received by two qualified candidates (and current Inyo County employees): Assistant Auditor-Controller Christie Martindale and Assistant Assessor Allison Krohn.

The Chairperson did a coin-toss to determine what order the candidates would be interviewed, and Ms. Krohn went first. Each candidate was required to leave the Board Room during their challenger's interview. They were both afforded five minutes for opening statements/presentations, after which Board members asked questions prepared in advance as well as follow-up questions.

Questions included the following:

- As the County Treasurer-Tax Collector, you manage public funds on deposit with the treasury, not only from the County, but also from over 30 treasury pool participants. For many of those agencies, you also act as their Treasurer. Please explain your understanding of this unique position and how your background make you qualified to carry out its duties.
- How would you build and maintain strong relationships with our taxpayers?
- As County Treasurer-Tax Collector, you are the investment officer for all funds on deposit with the treasury pool. Please describe your understanding of this role, as well as your primary investment objectives and overall investment philosophy as the County Treasurer-Tax Collector?
- As Treasurer Tax Collector you are also a County Department Head. Please provide us with your perspective on effectively leading a team while also running a department.
- Your role as County Treasurer-Tax Collector includes assisting and advising the treasury pool participants and the taxing agencies. You are one of the subject matter experts for the issuance of debt in the form of bonds, COP's, Lease Purchase Agreements, and loans. Please expand on your knowledge of these commonly used debt instruments.
- Provide your perspective on public service, and what motivates you to work in this space.
- How would you ensure compliance with financial regulations and standards in treasury operations?
- Collaboration is a critical expectation for all of our Department Heads, whether appointed or elected. Explain how you will ensure that the TTC office works effectively with the offices of the Assessor and Auditor-Controller, as well as County Administration and other departments.
- How would you ensure transparency and accountability in the handling of public funds as the Treasurer-Tax Collector?

Following Ms. Krohn's interview, Chairperson Marcellin asked if there was anyone wishing to provide comment and public comment was received from Assessor Dave Stottlemire, who endorsed Ms. Krohn.

Following Ms. Martindale's interview, Chairperson Marcellin asked if there was anyone wishing to provide comment and public comment was received from former Treasurer-Tax Collector Alisha McMurtrie and current Auditor-Controller Amy Shepherd, who both endorsed Martindale.

Recess/Reconvene

The Chairperson recessed the meeting for a break at 11:31 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 11:43 a.m. with all Board members present.

*CA-Personnel –
Treasurer-Tax
Collector Appointment*

Board members thanked both candidates for their interest in applying for the TTC position and praised them for the contributions they have made as current employees with the Inyo County.

(continued)

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to appoint Christie Martindale to the office of Treasurer-Tax Collector effective January 16, 2025, to serve out the remainder of the term expiring at noon on January 3, 2027. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:49 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 21, 2025, in the County Administrative Center in Independence.

Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

*Attest: NATE GREENBERG
Clerk of the Board*

by: _____
Darcy Ellis, Assistant