

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

October 10, 2023

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 8:31 a.m., on October 10, 2023, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Jennifer Roeser, presiding, Trina Orrill, Scott Marcellin, Matt Kingsley, and Jeff Griffiths. Also present: County Administrator Nate Greenberg, County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo, and Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Ellis.

Closed Session Public Comment

The Chairperson asked for public comment related to closed session items and public comment was heard from Inyo County Employees Association President Laura Boyer and Health and Human Services employee Perla Gastelum.

Closed Session

Chairperson Roeser recessed open session at 8:37 a.m. to convene in closed session with all Board members present to discuss the following item(s): No. 2 **Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation** - Initiation of litigation pursuant to § 54956.9(d)(4): 1 case; and 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 Nate Greenberg, Assistant County Administrators Sue Dishion and Meaghan McCamman, Deputy Personnel Director Keri Oney, County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo, and Senior Budget Analyst Denelle Carrington.

Open Session

Chairperson Roeser recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:07 a.m. with all Board members present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Assistant Personnel Director Keri Oney led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Report on Closed Session

County Counsel Vallejo reported that the Board met under Item Nos. 2 and 3 and that no actions were taken during closed session required to be reported. Vallejo said the Board would meet again to discuss both items later in the meeting.

Public Comment

Chairperson Roeser asked for public comment related to items not calendared on the agenda and public comment was heard from Independence resident Lauralyn Hundley.

County Department Reports

Probation Chief Jeff Thomson provided updates on Assembly Bill 505, announced a Drug Court graduation next week, and said he plans to meet with Superintendent of Schools Barry Simpson and Inyo Council for the Arts Lynn Cooper to discuss the art school program sponsored by the Probation Department.

Treasurer Tax-Collector Alicia McMurtrie informed the public that the secured tax bills for 2023-2024 will be mailed out by the end of the week.

Clerk of the Board – Approval of Minutes

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve the minutes from the regular Board of Supervisors meeting of October 3, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

<i>CAO-Emergency Services – March 2023 Storms & Spring Runoff Local Emergency Continuation</i>	Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve staff's recommendation to continue the local emergency proclaimed in response to the 2023 storms and projected spring runoff in March 2023. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>CAO-Emergency Services – Tropical Storm Hilary Local Emergency Continuation</i>	Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve staff's recommendation to continue the local emergency proclaimed in response to Tropical Storm Hilary. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>HHS-EMCC – DMV Ambulance Driver Training Exemption Request Letter</i>	Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to authorize the Chairperson to approve and co-sign a letter with the Chair of the Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) to the California Department of Motor Vehicles requesting a training exemption for individuals to become certified/licensed as volunteer ambulance drivers. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>HHS-Health & Prevention – FY 23-24 Tobacco Control Program Allocation Agreement</i>	Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to ratify and approve the agreement between the County of Inyo and the California Department of Public Health for the provision of the local Tobacco Control Program, in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, and authorize the HHS Director to sign Allocation Agreement CTCP-21-14 and quarterly Prospective Payment Invoices. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Public Works – Walker Creek Bridge Replacement Project Plans & Specs.</i>	Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve the plans and specifications for the Walker Creek Bridge Replacement Project and authorize the Public Works Director to advertise the project. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Public Works – Quincy Engineering Contract Amendment No. 1 and Minutes Correction</i>	Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to authorize a correction of the July 27, 2021, Minutes and corresponding Board Order for the Quincy Engineering Contract Amendment No. 1, so that the record reflects the contract end date of June 30, 2024, as intended. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Public Works – Jail Administration Remodel Project Plans & Specs.</i>	Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve the plans and specifications for the Jail Administration Remodel Project and authorize the Public Works Director to advertise for bids. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Public Works – Whitney Portal Road Reconstruction Discussion</i>	<p>Deputy Public Works Director John Pinkney introduced Project Management Branch Chief for the Central Federal Lands Highway Division Wendy Longley to the Board and provided the Board with notes and discussion on the pros and cons of allowing the agency to take over the repairs to Whitney Portal Road.</p> <p>Chairperson Roeser asked if there was anyone wishing to speak and public comment was heard from Travis Powell, Doug Thompson, Nancy O'Sullivan, Gillian Hile, and Patricia Ramirez.</p> <p>Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve acceptance of an offer from the Federal Highway Administration, Central Federal Lands (CFL) Highway Division, to deliver a project to repair the damage on Whitney Portal Road caused by Hurricane Hilary. Motion carried unanimously.</p>

*Planning Department –
Ordinance 1301 (GPA
2022-01/LADWP, Zone
Reclass 2022-
01/LADWP) & Reso.
No. 2023-33*

Planning Associate and Surface Mining Act Reclamation Coordinator Ryan Standridge provided background information on the application received from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for an Amendment to the General Plan and Zone reclassification.

Chairperson Roeser began the public hearing at 11:01 a.m. and with no one requesting to provide public comment, closed the hearing at 11:01 a.m.

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to:

- A) Approve GPA 2022-01/LADWP changing the General Plan designation from natural resources to general industrial to best match the requested zoning and current and future planned uses on the property;
- B) Approve proposed Ordinance 1301 titled, “An Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, Approving Zone Reclassification No. 2022-01 LADWP and Amending the Zoning Map of the County of Inyo by Rezoning a Parcel Located on the West Side of Highway 136 South of the Keeler Community (APN 031-010-01) from Open Space with a 40-Acre Minimum (OS-40) to General Industrial (GI); and;
- C) Approve Resolution No. 2023-33 to certify that the proposed project is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14 § 1506(b)(3).

Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO-Personnel –
Deputy Director Social
and Placement
Services/ Job
Description & Contract
Amendment No. 1*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to:

- A) Approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Darcia Blackdeer-Lent for the Provision of Personnel Services as the Deputy Director Social and Placement Services, changing her title from Deputy Director Aging & Social Services to Deputy Director Social and Placement Services, effective October 12, 2023, and authorize the Chairperson to sign;
- B) Approve the job description for the Deputy Director Social and Placement Services; and
- C) Direct staff to update the publicly available pay schedule accordingly.

Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO-Personnel –
Deputy Director Public
Assistance and Aging
Job Description &
Contract*

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to:

- A) Approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Morningstar Willis-Wagoner for provision of personal services as the Deputy Director Public Assistance and Aging at Range 88, Step D, \$9,525 per month, effective October 12, 2023, and authorize the Chairperson to sign;
- B) Approve the Deputy Director Public Assistance and Aging job description; and
- C) Direct staff to update the publicly available pay schedule accordingly.

Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

Chairperson Roeser recessed open session to return to closed session at 11:09 a.m. and reconvened the meeting in open session at 12:12 p.m. with all Board members present.

*Report on Closed
Session*

County Counsel Vallejo reported that the Board met under Item Nos. 2 and 3 and that no action was taken during closed session that is required to be reported.

*CAO –
Public Safety and
Administration Land
Mobile Radio System
Update*

CAO Greenberg introduced Chief Information Officer Noam Shendar who provided a presentation to the Board along with Assistant Sheriff Tim Bachman on the status of the current radio systems being used in Inyo.

Shendar recommended the continued use of the existing analog Very High Frequency (VHF) system, explaining that it has been neglected for several years and would need to be repaired and a preventative maintenance schedule established. Shendar noted that the key to bringing radio services current in Inyo will be coordination between the Sheriff, HHS-EMS, and Road systems and a collaboration of budgets and purchases for this long-term planning process.

Chairperson Roeser asked if anyone wished to speak and public comment was provided by

Lone Pine Fire Chief Carl Bursell.

*CAO –
Volunteer Fire Districts
One-Time Funding
Distribution*

CAO Greenberg provided a brief background history of what prompted the County's proposal to help boost support of local volunteer EMS providers.

Chairperson Roeser asked if there was anyone wishing to speak and public comment was given by Lone Pine Fire Chief Carl Bursell, Treasurer Tax-Collector Alicia McMurtrie, Sierra LifeFlight Regional Director of Program Operations Mike Patterson, and Olancha Fire Chief Chelsea Benbrook.

A majority of the Board directed staff to return with an agenda item next week to provide the Bishop Rural Fire Protection District with a one-time allocation of \$25,000 as well.

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to authorize the one-time allocation of \$25,000 to the following volunteer fire departments: Big Pine Fire Protection District; Independence Fire Protection District; Lone Pine Fire Protection District; Olancha Fire Protection District; and Southern Inyo Fire Protection District. Motion carried unanimously.

Recess/Reconvene

Chairperson Roeser recessed the meeting at 2:19 p.m. for a break and reconvened the meeting at 2:32 p.m. with all Board members present.

*CAO-Emergency
Services –
Tropical Storm Hilary
After Action Review
Presentation*

CAO Greenberg provided a brief timeline of events surrounding Tropical Storm Hilary, the impact of damages sustained to infrastructure, and noted areas of strength and deficiency surrounding agency response efforts.

Greenberg highlighted areas of focus with regard to communications and explained progress being made to improve disaster response and emergency coordination efforts.

Chairperson Roeser asked if there was anyone wishing to speak and comment was given by Assistant Sheriff Bachman, HHS Deputy Director for Fiscal Oversight and Special Operations Melissa Best-Baker, Independence Fire Chief Joe Capello, and Lone Pine Fire Chief Carl Bursell.

Attendance Change

Supervisor Griffiths left the Board meeting at 3:11 p.m.

Public Comment

Chairperson Roeser asked if there was any public comment pending for items not calendared on the agenda and there was no one wishing to speak.

*Board Member & Staff
Reports*

Supervisor Kingsley reported the County received a Clean Air Grant for a project at Diaz Lake, attended the 100th anniversary celebration for the Dow Villa Hotel in Lone Pine, hopes to set up a meeting with Caltrans District 8, and that State Route 190 will open this Sunday from Lone Pine to Furnace Creek.

Supervisor Marcellin said he attended the 100th anniversary celebration for the Dow Villa Hotel, the Lone Pine Film Festival welcome dinner, the Hispanic Heritage Day Celebration in Bishop, and constituent meetings.

Supervisor Orrill said she attended the Fall Colors car show and the Hispanic Heritage Day Celebration.

Supervisor Roeser said she attended a tour of the Owens Valley Indian Water Commission's new Three Creeks property, the Bourbon and Barrels event in Independence, the Lone Pine Film Festival, meetings with volunteer groups and the Forest Service, and the Big Pine Civic Club meeting, which CAO Greenberg also attended.

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3:51 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, October 17, 2023, in the County Administrative Center in Independence.

Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

*Attest: NATE GREENBERG
Clerk of the Board*

by: _____
Darcy Ellis, Assistant