

# MINUTES



## County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

### January 9, 2024

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 8:33 a.m., on January 9, 2024, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Jennifer Roeser, presiding, Scott Marcellin, Matt Kingsley, Jeff Griffiths, and Trina Orrill. 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 there was no one wishing to speak.

#### *Closed Session*

Chairperson Roeser 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 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 Administrator Sue Dishion, Deputy Personnel Director Keri Oney, County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo, Assistant County Counsel Christy Milovich, and Senior Budget Analyst Denelle Carrington; No. 3 **Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation - Pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code §54956.9** – *County of Inyo v. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power*, Inyo County Superior Court Case No. SICVCV 18-62064 (Eminent Domain-Independence); Case No. SICVCV 18-62065 (Eminent Domain-Lone Pine); and Case No. 18-62067 (Eminent Domain-Bishop); No. 4 **Conference with Real Property Negotiators – Pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of Government Code §54956.8** – Property: Bishop, Independence, and Lone Pine Landfills. Agency Negotiators: Nate Greenberg, John-Carl Vallejo, Greg James. Negotiating parties: Inyo County and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Under negotiation: price and terms of payment; No. 5 **Public Employment – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: Assistant County Administrator and Deputy County Administrator; and No. 6 **Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: Chief Probation Officer.

#### *Open Session*

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

#### *Announcement*

Assistant Clerk of the Board Ellis announced that the video feed for the meeting has been lost due to technical difficulties, but Information Services staff is working with the vendor to fix the issue. She said there was no timeframe for or guarantee of video restoration today.

#### *Pledge of Allegiance*

Chairperson Roeser led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### *Report on Closed Session*

Assistant County Counsel Vallejo reported that the Board met under Item Nos. 2 through 5 and that no action was taken during closed session required to be reported. Vallejo said that the Board would meet again later in the meeting to discuss Item No. 6.

#### *Election of Officers*

The Assistant Clerk of the Board opened nominations for Board Chairperson and Supervisor Marcellin nominated Supervisor Kingsley, noting that it was his honor to have Kingsley lead the Board during his last year in office. Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to elect Supervisor Kingsley as Board Chairperson for the calendar year

2024. Motion carried unanimously.

The Assistant Clerk of the Board opened nominations for Board Vice Chairperson and Supervisor Kingsley nominated Supervisor Marcellin. Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to elect Supervisor Marcellin as Board Vice Chairperson for the calendar year 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

*Introductions*

The following new employees were introduced to the Board: Shelter Attendant Joseph (Joe) Mulligan, Sheriff's Office; and from HHS, Prevention Program Manager Vanessa Bigham, Prevention Specialist Lizz Darcy, Assistant HHS Director Gina Ellis, Program Service Assistant Lisa Allsup, HHS Specialist Ethan Brown, Parent Partner Stormie DeHaven, Residential Caregiver Jasmin Franco, Office Technician Jeffrey Garrison, and Office Clerk Liisa Woodward.

*Public Comment*

Chairperson Kingsley asked for public comment related to items not calendared on the agenda and public comment was received from Lauralyn Hundley.

*Memorial Adjournment*

Supervisor Griffiths shared the sad news that long-time Bishop resident and former Bishop Mayor and Councilmember Martin "Smiley" Connolly had passed away. Supervisor Griffiths mentioned fond memories of serving alongside the veteran Connolly as a rookie on the City Council. He asked that today's meeting be adjourned in memory of Mr. Connolly.

*County Department Reports*

Sheriff Rennie provided information on recent traffic enforcement and probation and parole compliance details and thanked Public Works staff for repairs completed to the Sheriff's Administrative office.

Public Works Director Mike Errante informed attendees that Caltrans will be hosting a free dump day on January 20 in Big Pine and Bishop.

Water Director Dr. Holly Alpert provided the Board with the Water Department Annual Report and noted the recent completion of the Draft Lower Owens River Annual Report, noting there will be a joint public meeting with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power tomorrow to discuss it.

Clerk-Recorder Danielle Sexton provided Elections updates and said she recently attended a statewide legislation update meeting. Sexton said there will be a pop-up voting support event in Olancho on February 14 and also advertised the Fifth District Candidate Forums to be held in Tecopa, Lone Pine, and Independence.

*Clerk of the Board – Approval of Minutes*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to approve the minutes from the regular Board of Supervisors meetings of December 12, 2023, and December 19, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

*Treasurer-Tax Collector – 2024 Statement of Investment Policy*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to review and approve the 2024 Statement of Investment Policy. Motion carried unanimously.

*Treasurer-Tax Collector – Investment Authority/ Reso# 2024-01*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to approve Resolution No. 2024-01, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo Delegating to the Inyo County Treasurer its Investment Authority Pursuant to Section 53607 of the Government Code," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO-Information Services – Assistant Chief Information Officer E-Step Hiring Approval*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to authorize the hiring of one (1) Assistant Chief Information Officer, Range 92 (\$9,079 - \$11,306), at the E Step (\$11,306). Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO –  
Inyo/Mono Agricultural  
Commissioner &  
Veterans Services  
Officer Agreements*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to:

- A) Approve the Agreement between the County of Inyo and the County of Mono for the provision of Agricultural Commissioner, Director of Weights and Measures, and Pesticide Use Enforcement Services for the period of January 9, 2024 - until terminated, authorize the County Administrator and Risk Manager to sign; and
- B) Approve the Agreement between the County of Inyo and the County of Mono for a Single County Veterans Service Office and Veterans Services Officer to serve both Counties for the period of January 9, 2024 - until terminated, and authorize the County Administrator and Risk Manager to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –  
North Round Valley  
Road Easement Deed/  
Reso#2024-02*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to approve Resolution No. 2024-02, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo Accepting a Highway Easement Deed Across APN 009-120-03 for the North Round Valley Road Bridge over Pine Creek," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO –  
Small Business  
Resource Center  
Lease Amendment*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to approve Amendment No. 1 to the lease agreement between the County of Inyo and SSW19, LLC of California for the real property described as 269 N. Main St., Bishop, formalizing a letter agreement allowing for the cessation of rent payments until the building is occupied by the County, and increasing the lease to include \$250,000 in additional rent to fully prepare the building for occupancy, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

*Agricultural  
Commissioner –  
Owens Valley Mosquito  
Abatement Program  
Workshop*

Agricultural Commissioner Nate Reade conducted a workshop on current mosquito control activities within the Owens Valley Mosquito Abatement boundaries and discussed the possibility of future coordination with local Tribal jurisdictions for abatement monitoring and treatments.

Natural Resource Specialist for the Bishop Paiute Tribe Tom Gustie answered questions regarding County assistance on Tribal lands in Bishop.

Chairperson Kingsley asked if there was anyone wishing to speak, and public comment was given by Environmental Director for the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe Mel Joseph and Environmental Director for the Fort Independence Paiute Tribe Sean Dahlberg.

The Board directed Ag Commissioner Reade to proceed with arranging meetings with all of the local Tribes to discuss future coordination efforts for abatement.

*CAO –  
Tecopa Hot Springs  
Conservancy Rate  
Schedule Change*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to approve new rates as requested by and to be charged by Tecopa Hot Springs Conservancy. Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO-Personnel –  
Change in Authorized  
Strength*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to:

- A) Change the Authorized Strength in the Sheriff's Office by adding one (1) Sheriff's Community Relations Liaison at Range 78 (\$6,458 - \$7,847) and deleting one (1) Public Information Officer at Range 78 (\$6,458 - \$7,847); and
- B) Approve the Sheriff's Community Relations Liaison job description.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Comment*

Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Ellis informed Chair Kingsley that there was a remote public comment request for the Tecopa Hot Springs Conservancy item which had been missed during the earlier comment request due to connection issues.

Rose Colon said she would provide the feedback to Chairperson Kingsley at a later time.

*CAO-Information  
Services –  
OpenGov Permitting*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to:

- A) Approve the purchase of the OpenGov software platform up to the amount of \$117,245, and authorize the County Administrator to sign respective agreements;

<i>Software Acquisition</i>	<p>and</p> <p>B) Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Bishop which addresses the sharing of costs associated with this joint software acquisition.</p> <p>Motion carried unanimously.</p>
<i>Closed Session</i>	Chairperson Kingsley recessed open session at 12:17 p.m. for lunch and closed session with all Board members present.
<i>Open Session</i>	Chairperson Kingsley reconvened the meeting in open session at 1:37 p.m. with all Board members present.
<i>Report on Closed Session</i>	County Counsel Vallejo reported that the Board met under Item No. 6 and that no action was taken during closed session that is required to be reported. Vallejo indicated that the Board would meet again before the end of the meeting to finish discussion on this item.
<i>Planning Department – Short-Term Rental Workshop</i>	<p>Planning Director Cathreen Richards provided a presentation and background information on short-term rentals in Inyo County and noted the current moratorium in place for new permits while staff addresses certain issues at the direction of the Board.</p> <p>Chairperson Kingsley asked if there was anyone wishing to speak and comment was given by David Tanksley, Randy Short, and Spencer McNeal.</p> <p>The Board discussed citizen concerns and complaints, enforcement issues, and the area caps proposed by Planning staff. Board members proposed various regulations and sought clarity on legal issues from County Counsel Vallejo. Supervisor Griffiths noted that the Board went through an extensive, widespread public outreach effort in 2018 when it adopted the initial short-term rental guidelines, and if the current Board wished to address the entire program – rather than focus on specific updates proposed by Planning – then the Board needed to launch another intensive public feedback effort. He also noted that the more micro-managing the County does and the more restrictions it imposes, the more people will want to avoid going through the legal permitting process. Because Inyo County’s code enforcement is a complaint-driven system, Board members recognized the need for citizens to file complaints of permit violations with the Planning Department and suggested that any complaints coming into the Sheriff’s Office be shared with Planning.</p> <p>After additional discussion, the Board directed staff to develop an ordinance capping short-term rentals at 3% throughout the county and requiring a renewal after 3 years or when the County institutes a business license, whichever comes first. Board members also asked that the ordinance prohibit all outdoor fires at rentals.</p>
<i>Public Comment</i>	Chairperson Kingsley asked if there was any public comment pending for items not calendared on the agenda and comment was received from David Tanksley, Randy Short, Will Wadelton, and Josh Nicholson.
<i>Board Member &amp; Staff Reports</i>	<p>CAO Greenberg said he toured the Small Business Resource Center construction site and reminded attendees that there will be a Special Meeting tomorrow in the Board room in Independence for a Strategic Planning Workshop.</p> <p>Supervisor Griffiths said he attended a tour of the Small Business Resource Center and a Bishop City Council meeting and that he would be attending the Eastern Sierra Transportation Authority meeting on Thursday.</p> <p>Supervisor Kingsley said he attended a Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District meeting and will be attending a Candidates Forum in Tecopa on Thursday.</p>
<i>Closed Session</i>	Chairperson Kingsley recessed open session at 3:37 p.m. to resume closed session with all Board members present.
<i>Open Session</i>	Chairperson Kingsley reconvened the meeting in open session at 4:28 p.m. with all Board members present.

*Report on Closed  
Session*

County Counsel Vallejo reported that the Board met under Item No. 6 and that no action was taken during closed session that is required to be reported.

*Adjournment*

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting in memory of Martin Leonard "Smiley" Connolly, at 4:29 p.m. to 9 a.m. Wednesday, January 10, 2024, in the County Administrative Center in Independence.



Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

*Attest: NATE GREENBERG  
Clerk of the Board*



by: Darcy Ellis, Assistant