

# MINUTES



## County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

**April 2, 2024**

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 April 2, 2024, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Matt Kingsley, presiding, Scott Marcellin, 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 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 Kingsley recessed open session at 8:32 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 Assistant Director of Budgets and General Services Denelle Carrington; and No. 2A **Public Employment – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: Public Defender.

*Open Session*

Chairperson Kingsley recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:16 a.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.

*Pledge of Allegiance*

Supervisor Kingsley 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 Lauralyn Hundley and Joe Lattrell.

Supervisor Roeser took the opportunity to acknowledge the loss of Mary Pucci, wife of former Supervisor and Bishop City Administrator Rick Pucci, and said she will be missed dearly.

*County Department Reports*

Public Works Director Mike Errante provided updates on the Whitney Portal Road, Lone Pine Sidewalk, Independence Courthouse HVAC, and Onion Valley Guardrail projects and shared information about an upcoming bicycle event called Whiskey Tango Fondo being held April 27-28 in Independence.

Clerk-Recorder Danielle Sexton provided election updates, thanked election workers and candidates for their participation, and explained how the recent elections activities will affect the upcoming November elections.

Chief Probation Officer Jeff Thomson provided legislative updates to the Board and a draft letter of opposition for Assembly Bill 2882.

Deputy Public Works Director for Airports Ashley Helms reported the completion of repairs to the Lone Pine Airport terminal roof and thanked the Friends of Lone Pine Airport for assisting with the project.

HHS Director Anna Scott provided a status on Proposition 1 and said staff will begin implementation of the recently passed bill. Scott said that the entire HHS Department will be closed for an all-day staff training on April 5.

Treasurer-Tax Collector Alisha McMurtrie and Auditor-Controller Amy Shepherd provided updates on the property tax system Aumentum. McMurtrie and Shepherd explained that the transition to the newer system has taken longer than expected to complete and in turn, has created extreme delays in processing the 2019-2023 supplemental tax bills. In acknowledgement of the delays and the unexpected receipt of the bills, McMurtrie encouraged members of the public who may need additional payment options to contact her office.

*Clerk of the Board –  
Approval of Minutes*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to approve the minutes from the special Board of Supervisors meetings of March 12, 2024, March 13, 2024, and March 21, 2024, and the regular meeting of March 12, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

*Health & Human  
Services- Behavioral  
Health –  
Kingsview Agreement  
Amendment No. 1*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to ratify and approve Amendment No. 1 to the agreement between the County of Inyo and Kings View Corporation of Fresno, CA, increasing Section 3 of the Agreement by \$50,151 to an amount not to exceed \$261,881 for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

*Health & Human  
Services –  
WIC Sub-Grant  
Contract Agreement*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to approve the agreement between the County of Inyo and the National Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Association for the AHEAD 2.0: Strengthening and Diversifying the WIC Workforce Project grant award in the amount of \$7,750.00 for the period of March 1, 2024, to November 30, 2024, and authorize Inyo County WIC Director to sign for award. Motion carried unanimously.

*Health & Human  
Services- Behavioral  
Health –Advocates for  
Human Potential  
Modification No. 3*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to ratify and approve Modification No. 3 to the agreement between the County of Inyo and Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. (AHP) of Pasadena, CA, increasing the contract to an amount not to exceed \$958,684.00, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the HHS Director to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works-  
Recycling & Waste  
Management –  
Kern County Waste  
Management  
Agreement*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to:

- A) Approve the contract amendment between the County of Inyo and Kern County for the disposal of solid waste generated within the southernmost areas of Inyo County at the Ridgecrest Sanitary Landfill, extending the term end date to June 30, 2029 or unless terminated sooner, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and setting the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 payment at \$14,830.02; and
- B) Authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works-  
Recycling & Waste  
Management –  
Ferrellgas LP  
Commercial Site Lease  
Agreement*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to ratify and approve Amendment No. 1 to the commercial site lease agreement between the County of Inyo and Ferrellgas LP with a term from January 23, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and the monthly lease amount of \$40.00, contingent upon adoption of future budgets; and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works-  
Recycling & Waste  
Management –  
Vehicles and*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to:

- A) Declare the vehicles and equipment listed in Attachment 1 as surplus;
- B) Authorize Recycling and Waste Management to offer the vehicles and equipment for sale utilizing the Public Surplus auction site; and
- C) Authorize any unsold vehicles and equipment to be disposed of as scrap metal.

*Equipment Surplus  
Auction*

Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –  
McLaren Lane Road  
Closure*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to approve the closure of McLaren Lane in Bishop, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, to accommodate utility work performed by Southern California Edison. Motion carried unanimously.

*Treasurer-Tax  
Collector –  
Tobacco Settlement  
Funds/  
Reso. No. 2024-08*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to approve Resolution No. 2024-08, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, Substituting Officers Authorized to Direct Transfer of Tobacco Settlement Funds," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*Clerk-Recorder –  
2024 Election Results*

At the request of Supervisor Marcellin, the agenda item was moved from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda for further discussion. He asked that Clerk-Recorder Danielle Sexton clarify for constituents why some supervisorial candidates were declared winners outright and others will have to go to a runoff in November.

Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to declare elected those persons for each election under the County's jurisdiction and declare the results of each election under its jurisdiction as to each contest/measure voted on at the election, based on the certified results as required by law and as specified in the Statement of All Votes Cast for the Presidential Primary Election held on March 5, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –  
Lone Pine Airport  
Nighttime Air  
Ambulance Update*

Deputy Public Works Director of Airports Ashley Helms and Regional Director of Program Operations for Sierra Lifeflight Mike Patterson provided the Board with an update on current restrictions to nighttime air ambulance service at the Lone Pine/Death Valley Airport.

Chief Pilot Nathan Larson-Alexander with Guardian Flight briefly explained what prompted the company's decision to suspend night flights into and out of Lone Pine Airport. Larson-Alexander said he was brought to this region because of his expertise with complex mountain terrain and that additionally, parent company Global Medical Response hired an outside consultant to assess risk and provide recommendations for Lone Pine night flights. Larson-Alexander said a report of those findings is expected in May but could not provide an estimate of when night services would be fully restored.

Patterson and Helms further explained contributing factors which caused additional restrictions and delays and referenced the absence of nighttime instrument light rules and procedures as well as necessary upgrades to the lighting system at Lone Pine Airport.

Board members and staff discussed possible options, exploring what measures have been taken in the interim of interrupted night services, and acknowledged the added challenges and restrictions associated with the airport space existing in a military operating area.

Public comment was received from Travis Powell, Jeff Montgomery, Joe Lattrell, and Lisa Davis.

*BOS–  
Fish & Wildlife  
Commission Wildlife  
Management  
Letters*

Supervisor Roeser introduced Chairperson of the Inyo Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission Doug Brown and Bishop resident Brian Tillemans who provided information on and expressed concern over what they described as increased mountain lion predation having severe impacts on mule deer and Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep populations. Brown also noted that the Commission was asking for permission to send a letter to the State Fish & Game Commission advocating for improved mountain lion management and that the Board of Supervisors send a similar letter.

Public comment was received from Lynn Greer.

The Board engaged in lengthy discussion, expressing some concern over the absence of data or input from Department of Fish & Wildlife biologists. It was also noted that the

protection of mountain lions in California is fraught with political issues. Supervisor Griffiths said in his experience, when politics are added to wildlife management, the wildlife loses. The Board did not have any concerns about a second letter supporting DFW's management of the bi-state sage-grouse and supported the Commission's request to send the letter.

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to: A) Authorize the Inyo County Fish & Wildlife Commission to send a letter to the California Fish & Game Commission urging better management of mountain lion populations in order to preserve mule deer and endangered Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep populations; B) authorize the Inyo County Fish & Wildlife Commission to send a letter to the California Fish & Game Commission supporting the CDFW's management of the Greater Sage-Grouse and approve sending a similar letter from the Board of Supervisors; and C) directing Supervisors Roeser and Orrill to do additional research into the mountain lion predation issue. Motion carried unanimously.

*Recess/Reconvene*

The Chairperson recessed the meeting for a break at 1:01 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 1:36 p.m. with all Board members present.

*CAO-Broadband Coordinator – Broadband Project Prioritization Workshop*

Broadband Coordinator Scott Armstrong conducted a workshop regarding Broadband Project Prioritization in Inyo County and provided an overview of grant opportunities, as well as challenges associated with establishing broadband services throughout the different areas of the county.

*Attendance Change*

CAO Greenberg departed the meeting at 2:01 p.m. due to illness.

*County Counsel/CAO – Bryan Mack Public Defender Contract*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to approve the agreement between the County of Inyo and Bryan Mack for the provision of public defender services in an amount not to exceed \$600,000 for the period of May 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

*Planning Department – Zone Text Amendment No. 2024-01/Short-Term Rental of Residential Property*

Planning Director Cathreen Richards provided a presentation on proposed updates of the County's Short-term Rental of Residential Property Ordinance, which included the addition of short-term rental areas and caps, time limits, insurance requirements, fire restrictions, and changes to the enforcement process.

Chairperson Kingsley opened the public hearing at 2:54 p.m.

Board members discussed the proposed changes and Supervisor Kingsley requested the cap for the Southeast County (Area 12) be increased to 5% from the recommended, across-the-board 3%. The Board decided that execution of all changes to the code should be applied upon reissuance of a permit after the three-year time limit has expired and determined that this system could be in place if and when an existing business license format is adopted or even used in tandem with it. The Board requested that the insurance requirements and fire restrictions be applied retroactively to all permit holders.

The Board directed staff to send notices to existing short-term rental permit holders requesting insurance documents and informing them of the implementation of outside fire restrictions.

Public comment was received from Sharon White and Dave Tanksley.

Chairperson Kingsley closed the public hearing at 3:26 p.m.

Board members praised Tehauna Tiffany for her work with Code Enforcement.

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to:


- A) Certify that the action is exempt from CEQA;
- B) Waive further reading of and enact said ordinance with the changes requested; and
- C) Lift the moratorium placed on short-term rental applications.

Motion carried 4-1 with Supervisor Orrill voting no.

<i>Public Comment</i>	Chairperson Kingsley asked for public comment related to items not calendared on the agenda and there was no one wishing to speak.
<i>Board Member &amp; Staff Reports</i>	<p>Supervisor Orrill thanked Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil for coming to present a certificate of honor to Sheriff Stephanie Rennie and naming her a “SHEro” of Senate District 4 for Women’s History Month.</p> <p>Supervisor Kingsley said he attended an Active Transportation Grant meeting in Tecopa and thanked Transportation Planner Justine Kokx for the constructive public outreach opportunity.</p>
<i>Adjournment</i>	The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3:29 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 9, 2024, in the County Administrative Center in Independence.

  
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 Vice Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

*Attest: NATE GREENBERG*  
*Clerk of the Board*

by:   
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 Darcy ~~Ellis~~, Assistant