

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

October 1, 2024

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 8:35 a.m., on October 1, 2024, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present: Vice Chairperson Scott Marcellin, presiding, 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. Absent: Matt Kingsley

<i>Closed Session</i>	The Chairperson asked for public comment related to closed session items and there was no one wishing to speak.
<i>Public Comment</i>	
<i>Closed Session</i>	Chairperson Kingsley recessed open session at 8:35 a.m. to convene in closed session with all Board members present except Chairperson Kingsley 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); 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, Deputy Personnel Director Keri Oney, County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo, Assistant County Counsel Christy Milovich, Auditor-Controller Amy Shepherd, and Assistant CAO Denelle Carrington; No. 3 Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation - Initiation of litigation pursuant to § 54956.9(d)(4): 1 case.
<i>Open Session</i>	Vice Chairperson Marcellin recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:08 a.m. with all Board members present except Chairperson Kingsley.
<i>Report on Closed Session</i>	County Counsel Vallejo reported that the Board met under Item Nos. 2 and 3 and said that no action was taken during closed session with regard to Item 2 that is required to be reported but that the Board unanimously authorized County Counsel to initiate litigation in regard to Item 3. He noted that the facts, circumstances, and parties will be public information if and when a lawsuit is filed.
<i>Pledge of Allegiance</i>	Supervisor Roeser led the Pledge of Allegiance.
<i>Public Comment</i>	The Chairperson asked for public comment related to items not calendared on the agenda and public comment was received from Supervisor Roeser, Lauralyn Hundley, Linda Hunt, Joe Luttrell, and Trevor Warner.
<i>County Department Reports</i>	Clerk Recorder Danielle Sexton provided elections updates and noted that mail ballots will be sent out to registered voters on October 7. She also said the main Bishop polling place has been changed to the Barlow Lane Gym this election. HHS Director Anna Scott announced the Ombudsman Program is hosting a Medicare Q&A this weekend and reported that the Mexican consulate from Fresno visited last week to assist local residents.
<i>Clerk of the Board – Approval of Minutes</i>	Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve the minutes from the regular Board of Supervisors meeting of September 24, 2024. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Chairperson Kingsley absent.

*County Counsel – 2024
Conflict-of-Interest
Code Updates*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to:

A) Receive and approve the 2024 Conflict-of-Interest Code Biennial Reports from the following local agencies and County Departments:

- Inyo County Probation Department
- Inyo County District Attorney's Office
- Inyo County Water Department
- The Education Corps (Inyo County Office of Education)
- The YouthBuild Charter School (Inyo County Office of Education)
- The College Bridge Academy (Inyo County Office of Education)
- Pioneer Cemetery District
- Big Pine Unified School District
- Sierra Highlands Community Service District
- Lone Pine Unified School District
- Inyo County Office of Education
- Bishop Area Wastewater Authority
- Eastern Sierra Community Services District; and

B) Receive and approve the 2024 Conflict-of-Interest Code Amendments from the following local agencies and County Departments: Inyo County Public Administrator-Public Guardian and Inyo County Sheriff's Department.

Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Chairperson Kingsley absent.

*Planning – USGS Joint
Funding Agreement*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve the Joint Funding Agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey for wells and springs monitoring in the Amargosa Desert in the amount of \$8,000 for the period of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Chairperson Kingsley absent.

*Public Works-
Recycling & Waste
Management – River
Clean-up Fee Waiver*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve a waiver of solid waste disposal and gate fees up to \$100 for trash and litter removed at the Lower Owens River Clean event, October 26, 2024. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Chairperson Kingsley absent.

*Public Works – CSA 2
Sewer Line Project
Plans & Specs*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve the plans and specifications for the County Service Area No. 2 Sewer Line Replacement Project and authorize the Public Works Director to advertise the project. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Chairperson Kingsley absent.

*Presentation –
C5 Studios*

Naomi Hart Johnson and Erin Dews, co-executive directors of C5 Studios, came before the Board to give a presentation on the non-profit's programs and services and to start a conversation about possible funding opportunities from the County (outside of competitive grants) or partnerships with the County. They noted that C5 has reached the point in its five-year history where they need additional funding sources to be sustainable.

Board members thanked Dews and Johnson, and C5, for their work in the community and with local youth.

Supervisor Roeser said she would like to see a way in the future for the County to help support and enhance all of Inyo County artistic endeavors, providers, and purveyors. Supervisor Griffiths recommended that as a first step, C5 should convene a meeting with all of the local arts organizations and come up with a cooperative plan.

Public comment was received from Lauralyn Hundley and Allan Pietrasanta.

CAO Greenberg reminded the Board about its discussion at a meeting over the summer regarding the future of and possible modifications to the Community Project Sponsorship Program and Grants-in-Support program, noting that the conversation is still on staff's radar.

*Update – City of
Bishop EMS
Feasibility Study*

Bishop City Administrator Deston Dishion gave an update on the status and findings of the Emergency Medical Services Feasibility Study commissioned by the City of Bishop and performed by AP Triton in the wake of Symons Ambulance ceasing operations in January

2023, since which time EMS service has been subsidized by the County, City, and Bishop Paiute Tribe. He said the study honed in on an alliance model whereby the City of Bishop would be the EMS administering agency subcontracting with an ambulance provider in order to get increased Medi-Cal and Medicare reimbursement rates. Dishion said that now that the study is complete, the model isn't feasible for Bishop and will create undue burden on the Bishop Fire Department. He said the next step should be the County pursuing and obtaining an Exclusive Operating Agreement for the Bishop area with an ambulance provider. He said the City is willing to continue contracting with AP Triton for the firm to assist the County in preparing a Request for Proposals (RFP) from entities to provide EMS services in the Bishop area. He also suggested AP Triton could be helpful in expediting the issuance of an EOA from the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA).

Supervisor Griffiths said he was glad to see the City and County working so closely together on the EMS issue and that, while the alliance model looked promising initially, he thinks the time taken to complete the study was worth it to find out the proposal approach would fall short. CAO Greenberg confirmed that staff will now work on issuing an RFP and has been preparing for this stage behind the scenes for many months. He explained that now that the City is no longer interested in taking up the EMS mantle, the RFP will need to be refined. He said the Board will have to consider budget amendments as well, since the current EMS contract with Sierra Life Flight will auto-renew for another 30 days at the end of December. CAO Greenberg said staff was planning to come back with an additional, broader discussion on November 5 and Supervisor Orrill suggested a special meeting before then to move the process along faster.

Supervisor Roeser expressed disappointment and frustration that the EMS issue is back at square one in the 11th hour after the County has already put in over a quarter of a million dollars to avoid service gaps in the Bishop area. She said the hope had been that the alliance model with the City would be used to scale similar models for services countywide. She said she is not going to support continued subsidy of EMS services in the Bishop area with taxpayer dollars when volunteer fire departments are struggling to provide the same services countywide.

Dishion responded that the City's pivot doesn't change the fact that an EOA is needed for whatever entity is going to be administering services in the Bishop area and urged the Board to direct staff to issue the RFP as soon as possible.

Big Pine Fire Chief Damon Carrington expressed displeasure with the EMS study and said the County needs to act, not hold additional workshops. He said the County should have had a contingency plan in place to rapidly respond in the event the City of Bishop decided not to participate in the alliance model. He said with the Olancha-Cartago Volunteer Fire Department on the verge of collapse, the County needs to step up financially. Carrington said that if the County continues to subsidize EMS service in the Bishop area, the volunteer fire departments should receive funding support as well.

CAO Greenberg noted that EMS service in Bishop has been a long-standing issue that's being discussed for the first time in 30 years and cautioned that a solution will not come overnight, but said the County has been moving efficiently and deliberately towards a solution since last January and has not been sitting idly by.

Public comment was heard from Lynne Greer.

Recess/Reconvene

Vice Chairperson Marcellin recessed the meeting at 12:33 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 1:07 p.m. with all Board members present except Chairperson Kingsley.

Clerk-Recorder- Registrar of Voters – Appointments In-Lieu of Election


Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to appoint in-lieu of election nominees who filed Declarations of Candidacy during the filing period for the November 5, 2024 General Election and/or interested qualified candidates who did not submit Declarations of Candidacy as indicated on the attached Clerk's Certificates, pursuant to Elections Code §10515. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Chairperson Kingsley absent.

<i>HHS-Behavioral Health – ICOE North Star Counseling FY 24-25 Contract</i>	<p>Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Declare Inyo County Office of Education (ICOE) of Independence, CA a sole-source provider of Prevention Early Intervention services; B) Ratify and approve the contract between the County of Inyo and ICOE for the implementation of the Mental Health Services Act Prevention Early Intervention North Star Counseling Program Services in an amount not to exceed \$80,000 for the period of August 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, contingent upon the Board's approval of the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget; and C) Authorize the HHS Director to sign the contract and Business Associate Agreement. <p>Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Chairperson Kingsley absent.</p>
<i>Environmental Health – Annual Revised Fee Schedule</i>	<p>Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Orrill to adopt the revised Environmental Health Fee Schedule (based on a 3.4% CPI-U/COLA increase) for the 2025 calendar year. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Chairperson Kingsley absent.</p>
<i>Environmental Health – Waiver of Fees for City of Bishop Events/ Reso # 2024-33</i>	<p>Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to approve Resolution No. 2024-33, with changes in language to extend the waiver to local public agencies and Tribal governments, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Chairperson Kingsley absent.</p>
<i>CAO – Filling D.A. & Treasurer-Tax Collector Vacancies</i>	<p>The Board discussed with staff its options for filling the vacancies in two elected offices that will result from the mid-term retirements of D.A. Tom Hardy and Treasurer-Tax Collector Alisha McMurtrie at the end of December. The Board directed staff to begin soliciting letters of interest from the public in mid-November, set a two- to three-week application period, and schedule two separate special meetings in early January – after Jan. 7 – to conduct public interviews and make appointments to fill the respective vacancies.</p>
<i>Public Comment</i>	<p>Vice Chairperson Marcellin asked for public comment related to items not calendared on the agenda and there was no one wishing to speak.</p>
<i>Board Member & Staff Reports</i>	<p>Supervisor Orrill thanked Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Executive Director Elaine Kabala for a recent presentation, and the Local Transportation Commission for inviting the California Transportation Commission to visit Inyo County last week.</p> <p>Supervisor Griffiths said he volunteered at the Bob Waggoner Memorial Golf Tournament over the weekend, attended the San Joaquin Regional Counties Conference in Bakersfield and the California Transportation Commission town hall, and participated in the California Association of Counties (CSAC) leadership course last Wednesday in Big Pine with Supervisor Marcellin. He also introduced CSAC Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Legislative Advocate Catherine Freeman, who is visiting Inyo County.</p> <p>CAO Greenberg said it was his pleasure to teach the CSAC course last week on Effective Presentations and he is excited to be spending some time touring tomorrow with Ms. Freeman.</p> <p>Vice Chairperson Marcellin said he attended the Inyo-Mono Cattlewomen's Association Fundraiser, Bishop Unified School District candidates' night, last week's CSAC course, and the town hall co-hosted by the City of Bishop and County featuring the California Transportation Commission.</p> <p>Supervisor Roeser reported on the California Transportation Commission's visit to Inyo County.</p>
<i>Adjournment</i>	<p>The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, October 8, 2024, in the Tecopa Community Center in Tecopa, CA.</p>



Vice Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

*Attest: NATE GREENBERG
Clerk of the Board*

by: 

Darcy Ellis, Assistant