

# MINUTES



## County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

### December 17, 2024

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 December 17, 2024, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Matt Kingsley, presiding, Scott Marcellin, Jeff Griffiths, and Trina Orrill. Also present: County Administrator Nate Greenberg, County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo, and Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Ellis. Attending remotely from 850 Blackrock Springs Rd., Independence, CA, pursuant to California Government Code 54953(b)(1): Jennifer Roeser

#### *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); 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 Personnel Director Keri Oney, County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo, Assistant County Counsel Christy Milovich, Assistant County Counsel Grace Weitz, and Assistant CAO Denelle Carrington.

#### *Open Session*

Chairperson Kingsley recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 9:00 a.m. with all Board members present.

#### *Report on Closed Session*

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

#### *Pledge of Allegiance*

Chairperson Kingsley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### *Recognition*

Chairperson Kingsley introduced an item to recognize retiring District Attorney Tom Hardy who served Inyo County for more than 19 years, including 12 years as the D.A.

Board members took the opportunity to offer their farewells and gratitude.

Supervisor Kingsley: "I was down here when we appointed Tom, and it was kind of an exciting meeting. There was no doubt in my mind that we were doing the right thing."

Supervisor Griffiths: "I have no doubt in my mind that we were doing the right thing, and you did just prove that over your career. I appreciate your friendship."

Supervisor Orrill: "I just wanted to say thank you for your service to our community. You're a very dedicated individual and your integrity holds you high above. And it's earned you the trust of this community and you will be missed."

Supervisor Marcellin: "You've done an amazing job, and I want to thank you for your years of service not only to the D. A.'s office. but your achievements outside of it. You've done a lot for the community outside of Inyo County; you're going to be missed."

Supervisor Roeser: "I would just be remiss if I didn't mention that I am going to miss your quick and nimble legal mind and your sense of humor. I think I appreciate that sometimes as

much as your service. Your leadership and your skills have run an incredibly efficient District Attorney's office in serving the members of our county and its citizens."

Staff members, colleagues, and other individuals also commented.

County Counsel Vallejo: "I recall the conversation you had with Supervisor Kingsley to the rest of the County staff about how you try to operate your office and the environment you try to instill with a family-type love environment and that's one that I aspire to implement in my office as well. I think it's the right approach. I appreciate the fact that you have kept me on my toes as County Counsel when the occasion demands but also presented an atmosphere of being a regular person trying to do the best job that he can do for this county and his constituency and you've just been a role model for me, if you will. And I do appreciate your presence and your sense of humor and your approach to the office. Your approach to just interactions in general and the professionalism on top of all of that that you brought to your job, so thank you. I wish you well in your retirement."

CAO Greenberg: "I really do appreciate your candor, your guidance, your wisdom - you know, just the honesty and transparency - and I really agree with what John said. It was a pleasure for me to be able to have the panel with you and Supervisor Kingsley and to just talk about what it means to lead in these environments and the fact that you have done so and have staff who truly love and appreciate the environment and the approach that you've taken is commendable. And these are very challenging jobs, as I say all the time and to be on the tail end of that and have a career where you have served your community so well is something that is not lost on any of us and just very much appreciate your service. We'll miss you and best of luck in retirement."

Chief Probation Officer Jeff Thomson: "I just wanted to say on the record, thank you to Tom for his service and support of all of our county operations ... he really is a county leader. He's done a great job, and I really appreciate it. I appreciate his leadership in the criminal justice system as well as being a great partner to the Probation Department. So, on behalf of the Probation Department, we wish you well in retirement and we thank you for your 12 years as a District Attorney."

Deputy Senior District Attorney Dana Crom: "As you'll note, the entire District Attorney staff is here, and I think that that is probably the biggest tribute that we could pay to Tom. Tom built a team, and we truly are a team. And I think Supervisor Kingsley and Supervisor Griffiths both noted that when Tom was appointed, the District Attorney's office was not where it is today, and it has grown tremendously in these 11 years. Tom has brought a sense of professionalism camaraderie, team approach, and respect to the District Attorney's office. And for that, I think each and every one of us that have had a pleasure working with him are grateful and we are going to miss him tremendously."

District Attorney Tom Hardy responded:

"It has been a strange, fun, and interesting run. I have enjoyed almost every minute of being DA. We don't enjoy everything, but you know, we get to see the best of people and the worst of people. I hope that I've done an okay job. I really appreciate it, appreciate the recognition and appreciate being here.

"I do want to thank my wife, Nancy. I certainly appreciate all of her support over the years. Obviously, I couldn't be here, wouldn't be where I was without her. Also, very happy that my dad is here. I'm super blessed that just a little bit over 37 years ago, and it was December of 1987, I stood over in the Superior Courtroom across the street and got sworn into practice law by the Honorable Don Chapman. And I've basically been able to spend my entire legal career both here and in Mono County. And it's been a tremendous ride. And dad was there to see me sworn in. Dad's here to see me retire and I'm super happy and blessed that that's happened and so glad he could be here and obviously, he bears some of the responsibility for whatever I've done.

"I would be remiss if I didn't thank all of the county team, hopefully I get the big ones, Personnel, the Budget Team, Information Services, Motor Pool, and Building and Maintenance, but really, without those folks and without all the support, we couldn't run the

D.A.'s office and we couldn't be where we are. Being a small county, it is a team, we all work together.

"I also have to mention my thanks to the law enforcement community of Inyo County at all levels from Bishop PD, Sheriff, Highway Patrol, Fish and Wildlife and a number of other ancillary agencies that I've dealt with from time to time. People sometimes like to make fun of small-town law enforcement or think we're not as good as anybody else but I've been really blessed to work with a team of professionals – compassionate, concerned individuals – who do their best. And I'm not saying we always got it right, but we always tried, and I was always impressed with the effort that people in the law enforcement community brought to their jobs and the dedication that they have. And I can't thank them enough.

"I know she couldn't be here today, but I also wanted to thank Sheriff Rennie especially. I know she's the Sheriff and that's the way you all are used to dealing with her, but for me, she's still Chief Investigator Rennie. She had a very special place in the D.A.'s office. I was very happy to see her run for Sheriff and I was very sad to see her run for Sheriff. And the citizens of Inyo County are privileged to have her. She's going to do great for you and she was a very vital member of Team D.A. for a long time, and I really came to rely on her commonsense advice and practical approach to life.

"But perhaps more important is, as Dana mentioned, my team is here, and I would like all of my team to stand up. Honest to goodness, this is everybody, and if you're recognizing me, you're recognizing these people. I may have been lucky enough to put this team together but they're phenomenal. I love them like family and I'm going to miss them more than anything. We keep the people of Inyo County safe, or at least we try to. I hope we've done justice. I know they're going to continue to do justice. I do want to recognize everybody by name while they're standing up: Morgan Maillet, Administrative Assistant; Lawrence Austin, Legal Secretary; Senior Deputy D.A. David Christensen; Senior Deputy D.A. Dana Crom; Lidia Schultz, Victim Witness Coordinator; Deputy D.A. Catherine Ammirati; Jacqueline Shearer, Legal Secretary; Jessica Scida, Legal Secretary; and the DA's secret police investigator corps, Chief Investigator Rick Beal, Criminal Investigator Mike Durbin, and Criminal Investigator Brady Peak. I couldn't do without these people. They are the best."

*Public Comment*

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

*County Department Reports*

Public Works Director Mike Errante provided the Board with updates on the Library bookshelf anchoring project and the Whitney Portal Road repair project and provided pictures of improvements done to Portal Road. Errante thanked Chairperson Kingsley for his service and wished him well on his retirement.

*Clerk of the Board – Approval of Minutes*

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve the minutes from the regular Board of Supervisors meetings of December 3, 2024 and December 10, 2024, and the special meeting of December 11, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO – Grant Submission Ratification*

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to ratify and approve the submission of a grant application for \$100,000 for an On-Road Heavy-Duty truck to the Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program. Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO – Film Permit Fee Ordinance 1315*

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve proposed Ordinance 1315 titled, "An Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, Adding Chapter 5.41 to the Inyo County Code Regulating Commercial Filming Upon All County Owner Property, Requiring Permits Therefore, and Setting Associated Fees and Repealing Ordinance No. 1088 (2004)." Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO – RingCentral Telephony Contract Approval*

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to:

- A) Declare RingCentral, Inc., of Belmont, CA ("RingCentral"), a sole-source provider of Voice over IP ("VoIP") telephony services.
- B) Approve the agreement between the County of Inyo and RingCentral for the provision of VoIP services in an amount not to exceed \$7,500 per month for the period of 3 years (i.e., not to exceed \$270,000 over the course of 3 years), with recurring expenses to begin no earlier than April 1, 2025, in addition to a one-time

implementation cost of \$13,800 to be paid no earlier than January 2025, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets; and  
C) Authorize the Chief Information Officer to sign.  
Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS-ESAAA –  
ESAAA Council  
Appointments*

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to:

- A) Reappoint Ms. Sandra Lund and Mr. Roger Rasche each to a two-year term on the Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council, ending December 31, 2026; and
- B) Appoint Ms. Laura Janoff to a two-year term on the Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council, ending December 31, 2026.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Water Department –  
LORP 23-24 Annual  
Accounting Report*

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve the 2023-2024 Lower Owens River Project Annual Accounting Report. Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO-Personnel –  
Management  
Employee Reso. No.  
2024-45*

CAO Greenberg introduced the item and explained the process leading to today's management resolution, appointed officials' resolution, and personal service contracts with management and appointed employees. He noted that in February, the Board authorized a countywide classification and compensation study with the assistance of Evergreen Solutions. While the County had agreed to review the classification plan every 5-7 years, this was the first time that an independent and comprehensive analysis of the Inyo County workforce had been completed all at the same time. He explained that the Board's intent in engaging the County in this endeavor was to address chronic recruitment and retention issues throughout the organization, while also providing a consistent methodology of salary adjustments across the entire workforce. Greenberg explained that the Evergreen analysis evaluated classifications by reviewing existing job descriptions and job analysis questionnaires completed by employees in order to assess internal equity among positions, and then compare those positions to a market composed of 13 similar organizations. He said the study concluded that while salaries at most of the entry level positions in the organization were appropriately competitive at the median level of the 13 other organizations, the middle and upper-level positions top out in salary below similar positions within agencies in the market.

Greenberg noted that the Inyo County Employees Association and Inyo County Probation Peace Officers Association both accepted Evergreen's findings as part of negotiations (which previously led to the Board approving Memorandums of Understanding with both unions on December 3 as well as a resolution expanding the same benefits and salary changes to non-represented employees). He said proposed Resolution Nos. 2024-45 and 2024-46 are an attempt to further bring pay scale consistency to all employee groups.

Chairperson Kingsley said salary studies tend to be controversial, but there's no point in commissioning one if you don't have the guts to implement its findings, which does require some political will. Supervisors Griffith, Orrill, and Marcellin explained the importance of offering competitive salaries and benefits packages to recruit and retain quality employees and supported the effort to bring consistency to the pay scale countywide. Supervisor Roeser said pay increases seem do-able given past and current budget projections, but she wanted to make sure employees were not in the future automatically bumped up to higher steps in the pay scale, but rather only after stellar performance reviews to ensure the public is getting its money's worth.

Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve Resolution No. 2024-45 titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Setting Certain Salary and/or Terms and Conditions of Employment for Management Employees Employed in the Several Offices or Institutions of the County of Inyo, Which Shall Supersede Any prior Resolutions Pertaining to That Subject to the Extent They Are Inconsistent," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO-Personnel –  
Appointed Officials*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve Resolution No. 2024-46 titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of

<i>Reso. No. 2024-46</i>	California, Rescinding and Replacing Resolution 2006-06 and 2024-31 and Setting Salary and/or Terms and Conditions of Employment for Appointed Officials Employed in the Several Offices or Institutions of the County of Inyo," and authorize the Chairperson to sign.
<i>Personnel – Management &amp; Appointed Official Personal Services Contracts</i>	<p>Assistant Personnel Director Keri Oney read aloud the proposed salaries and benefits for the following management and appointed employees. Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to:</p> <p>A) Approve, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, the employment agreements between the County of Inyo and: Aaron Holmberg; Abhilash Itharaju; Allison Krohn; Amy Weurdig; Anna Scott; Ashley Helms; Caroline Nott; Carolyn Phillips; Cathreen Richards; Christian Milovich; Christie Martindale; Dana Crom; Darcia Blackdeer-Lent; David Christensen; Denelle Carrington; Elaine Kabala; Fred Aubrey; Gina Ellis; Grace Weitz; Holly Alpert; Jeffrey Thomson; Jerry Oser; John Laux; John Vallejo; Julie Weier; Keri Oney; Meaghan McCamman; Melissa Best Baker; Michael Errante; Morningstar Willis-Wagoner; Nathan Greenberg; Nathan Reade; Noam Shendar; Scott Armstrong; Shannon Platt; and Stephanie Tanksley; and</p> <p>B) Direct staff to update the publicly available salary schedule.</p> <p>Motion carried unanimously.</p>
<i>Clerk of the Board – Bishop Rural Fire Board of Commissioners Appointments</i>	Assistant Clerk of the Board/Public Relations Liaison Darcy Ellis noted that one of the two applicants withdrew his request for appointment after the publication of today's agenda. Moved by Supervisor Marcellin and seconded by Supervisor Orrill to appoint Mr. Gavin Delmas to an unexpired four-year term on the Bishop Rural Fire Protection District Board of Commissioners, ending July 1, 2028. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Clerk of the Board – Child Care Planning Council Appointments</i>	Moved by Supervisor to make the following reappointments and/or appointments to the Inyo County Child Care Planning Council: reappoint Katelyne Lent to a four-term in the Discretionary category ending November 4, 2027; reappoint Kat Duncan to a four-year term in the Public Agency representative category ending November 4, 2027; and appoint Ambrosia Stone to a four-year term in the Community Representative category ending November 4, 2027. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>CAO-Economic Development – Film Permit and Film Production Guide</i>	Assistant Clerk of the Board/Public Relations Liaison Darcy Ellis provided a presentation on the proposed Commercial Filming and Photography Permit and Film Production Guide, which are a first for Inyo County and were created with the input and assistance of the Film Commissioner, Project Management Office, Road Department, Parks & Recreation, County Counsel, Risk Management, and the Sheriff's Office. She shared some highlights of the permit and guide and said the hope is to have both available online through a digital application process. The Board thanked Ellis for her hard work, noting the film permit has been a long time coming.
<i>CAO – OpenGov Budgeting &amp; Procurement Modules Agreement</i>	Moved by Supervisor Orrill and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve three-year agreement between County of Inyo and OpenGov for the purchase of online budgeting and procurement solutions for the total amount of \$245,014.27. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Board Member &amp; Staff Reports</i>	<p>Supervisor Orrill wished everyone a Merry Christmas.</p> <p>Supervisor Griffiths wished everyone Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas.</p> <p>CAO Greenberg reported he attended an interagency roundtable coordinated by the Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center, announced that last Thursday was the inaugural flight of the new aircraft from San Francisco International Airport to the Eastern Sierra Regional Airport, and said that he will have a meeting tomorrow with Senator Padilla's Office to discuss his visit to the County in January. Greenberg wished everyone Happy Holidays.</p>
<i>Recess/Reconvene</i>	The Chairperson recessed the meeting for a break at 11:00 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 11:18 a.m. with all Board members present.
<i>Public Comment</i>	Chairperson Kingsley asked for public comment related to items not calendared on the

agenda and public comment was received from Pete Peters.

## *Recognition*

Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Ellis introduced an item to recognize retiring Fifth District Supervisor and current Chairperson Matt Kingsley for his 12 years of service to the residents and visitors of Inyo County. Ellis read aloud an impressive compilation of Kingsley's contributions which made note of his reputation for being fair, accessible, responsive, cooperative, compassionate, encouraging, and humorous.

CAO Greenberg presented Supervisor Kingsley with the Pinnacle Achievement Award for "exemplary public service which directly contributed to the success of Inyo County and supporting our community."

CAO Greenberg: "For me, actually applying for this job, knowing about you from friends and colleagues in common and you reaching out to me directly prior to the job even becoming available, your mentorship and friendship in many ways over the last couple of years has been incredible; and we would not be able to be where we are today if not for your wisdom and guidance and assistance along the way. I just personally want to say thank you. I very much appreciated getting to know you, being able to work beside you, learn from you, and I think that the true care and compassion you have for the County, the community, the communities in your district, and the individuals, is commendable. It's not one that I have seen in 25 years of service among just about any other elected official. I've worked with folks from various different ends of the political spectrum and various different entities. Communities all have a tremendous amount of respect for you; it speaks volumes about your ability to bring people together and to solve hard problems. For that, I'm deeply appreciative of having you as a mentor, and you will be dearly missed along with your humor."

County Counsel Vallejo: "Supervisor Kingsley, it's been an honor to work with and for you. I don't think people can truly appreciate the impact and influence you have had on County policy, in a lot of ways, not least of which is how you've brought the lots of charm to our dealings with LADWP ... You've done a great job navigating and developing those relationships and allowing us to find a space where we can work together as opposed to not working together with them. It's something that people don't see, but it's an incredibly important thing that you've contributed to the County. So, thank you, I appreciate you and I appreciate the time we've had together."

Board members expressed their deep gratitude for Supervisor Kingsley:

Supervisor Griffiths: "Matt, I still remember very clearly when we met. We met at Whiskey Creek in Bishop before the election in 2012 ... and got to know each other. And we've been tag-team partners ever since then, and I appreciate you introducing me to every bit of your district. I think you and I together have been to every corner of your district. I didn't even know Chicago Valley existed, and we went out there and found it. And you know, just watching you interact with your community on a personal level, you know the people and have this ability to do things in Sacramento or in D.C. meeting with a senator but then you're that same human being at a Quinceañera in Lone Pine. We're going to be buddies for a long time. We've had a great time."

Supervisor Orrill: "Throughout my local political career I've had the opportunity to work with some really amazing community public servants, and I am so blessed to add you to that list of mentors in my life. When I came on this board, you welcomed me. You have introduced me to people and have taken the time to listen to me and give me tools that I didn't know I needed. You introduced me to your district. I grew up in Inyo County, but I never knew the Fifth District, and having known you over the last two years, I feel like I've gotten to know it and appreciate the beauty of it. So, I just very humbly thank you for your mentorship and your friendship and wherever you go from here, will be very, very lucky to have you Supervisor Kingsley. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Supervisor Marcellin: "I have taken the approach of sitting back and listening and learning, and learning from you has been a joy because you always come up with the solutions. You're an amazing person, and I'm glad I got to know you ... I got to learn under your tutelage, and I appreciate that also. I got to see a part of the Fifth District that I thought I knew, but I hadn't seen growing up in Death Valley, but not getting to see the furthest southeast part of Death

Valley. I'd been to state line, but I'd never been to Tecopa, Shoshone, or Charleston View, so thank you."

Supervisor Roeser: "I believe your previous career set you up because you were a leader there, and now you became a leader here, and wherever you go, you're going to take that with you. So, thank you very much for everything you've done for Inyo County. Wherever you go in your retirement, just be blessed, my friend. You have obviously mentored many, many people throughout your entire career, and Lee and I have been grateful to know you, and also to have the opportunity, at least in my case, to have some mentorship coming into this role. I will just say that Inyo County, the United States Forest Service and all of the people that you have served over your career have been honored and blessed by your presence. Your unique ability to problem-solve and break things down into bite-sized bits when there's an issue to be confronted and bring people together is not only unique, but it's an honor and a privilege to watch and observe and learn from."

Staff members, colleagues, and constituents in attendance also commented.

Marilyn Mann: "I first got to meet Matt as a fellow school board member, and enjoyed meeting him, but more enjoyed getting to know him as a governance leader of the County and District 5. You are losing one of your staunchest advocates and so much so that I don't know that there's a department that provides a service that doesn't have in the back of their mind: 'Okay, how can we make sure we're meeting Fifth District needs when we do this?' Matt is always advocating for the Fifth District, even when it broadened to include Independence and has advocated on their behalf. We've been blessed to have you and you're going to be missed."

Auditor-Controller Amy Shepherd: "As one elected official to another, I learned early on in my career with Matt, that I can never underestimate what he was trying to get at, or what he wanted from me, because he was very pushy, and he would never let up. So, I always respected his asks and even if I didn't like them, I respected the fact that when he tackled County issues, he looked at them from a countywide perspective and not just his district's perspective. Especially when he had to vote for the COB building as a Fifth District resident. I second Marilyn's comment about you being one of the strongest supervisors I've ever seen in the Fifth District, and the advocacy of every resident we have and you're going to be missed."

District Attorney Tom Hardy: "I just wanted to say that the reason I always took your phone calls was mostly because when you get a call from the Fifth District Supervisor, you know it's going to be interesting. It's never something you've dealt with before, and it's never an easy answer. But it was always a pleasure working with you. I know you all have wonderful districts, no disrespect to anybody else's districts, but the 5th is a strange and different place, and I think Fifth District Supervisors, D.A.'s and Sheriffs have a special understanding of the 5th and it's been a pleasure working with you. You've been Fifth District Supervisor my entire reign as D.A. It's been fun – continue to have fun, and do what you want to do."

Greg James: "I've been around the County for a while, and done a few things with water and whatnot and have worked with Matt since he got elected 12 years ago. We've been through a lot of different issues. I've just got to commend you and give one example. There was a hearing on Adventure Trails which was a really contentious issue and there were people that really didn't want it and there were people that really wanted it. It was such a big hearing that we had to move it across the street at night and have it at the Legion Hall. Matt was the Chairman of the board, and he got through that meeting somehow. Everybody walked out of there still talking to each other. When they walked in, and it looked like we were going to be in a brawl. We came up with a solution, and both sides walked out, and as a testament to Matt, his humor just kept coming up in the middle of that hearing, diffusing the situation. So, thank you, and let me twist your arm and see if you'll serve on Water Commission."

Office Clerk Hayley Carter: "It has been extremely meaningful and fulfilling getting to know government more because of you, building knowledge and friendship. You are attentive to your staff and your constituents and bring it to a level I've never seen before. I admire the way that you have advocated for our rural county. You have a big, kind heart, and I will miss your smiling face. I hope you have time to continue your work and I look forward to hearing

about your future plans. Thank you for everything.”

Chief Probation Officer Jeff Thomson: “I just wanted to say thank you for your service. I've been around for a little bit, and I've seen Supervisors come and go, and you've been here the entire time, and I really appreciate that. Darcy was reading off all the accolades and the committees, and meetings, and everything that you've done and accomplished. I like to think of you as our Supervisor, and someone who has the County at heart at all times and for department heads like me and for other departments. We really appreciate the support that you've given over the years sitting in that chair there, not another committee, or anywhere else, but right here every other Tuesday. We don't always see eye to eye and we've had some pretty, not great times, but we've had some really good times as well. We've accomplished a lot, and that's because of your support and support of other Board members for the programs that we do, and so, not that you need another plaque or an award or anything, but on behalf of the Probation Department, I wanted to recognize Supervisor Matt Kingsley, District 5, on behalf of the Inyo County Probation Department. I'd like to thank you for your 12 years of service, dedication, and commitment to the men, women, and children of Inyo County. Throughout the years your support for Probation Department has produced many great programs and services that we can all be proud of. Thank you for that.”

Lauralyn Hundley: “I'm a resident of Independence and business owner. I just want to say, thank you Matt, I really appreciate you. I appreciate how much you reached out to the Independence community when the district changed. I saw that firsthand in the events that you went to and the people that you talked to. I was inspired to become more active in the County and in government, by just your response to emails to phone calls, the way that you supported businesses, my business, especially with hikers. If there were any issues with Horseshoe Meadow Road or Onion Valley Road or Whitney Portal Road, you were on it, and you really worked harder than most people know behind the scenes. I really appreciate the personal sacrifices you made to help the businesses in this community, and to establish yourself as someone who was supportive and helpful to the community and Independence when they were added to your district.”

Lone Pine Chamber Executive Director Angelica Mora: “I'm here because I'm representing the Hispanic community in the Fifth District. I want to say that everybody is thankful and everybody loves you. I have seen it – families always look forward to being with Matt. He's always invited to the carne asada dinners and the Quinceañeras, every party in the community. You know we appreciate you. You've been there with us and been very supportive. You are going to be missed out there. I've known you for some years since I started, living here in Lone Pine. I got you with the chips and salsa and I just want to thank you for everything. These last couple of years you've been very, very helpful to me in my new position and I want to thank you. I just want to say that the Hispanic community is going to miss you very much, but we're still there with you.”

Fifth District Supervisor Matt Kingsley responded.

“I'm going to talk, not about the challenges, or the politics, or successes or disappointments of my last 12 years. What I want to talk about is people who provided and continue to provide leadership in our county. I'm going to try to get the 2 hardest ones out of the way first: Linda, Arcularius and Clint Quilter. I feel lucky that I was friends with them, and both of them provided me with a lot of guidance. I feel very fortunate for that.

“Now I'm going to name a few more names and I've probably missed people that I should mention, but I'm going to give it a shot. Sue Dishion, Amy Shepherd, Marilyn Mann, Darcy Ellis, Hayley Carter, Leslie Chapman, Greg James, and Rick Pucci, as well as former Sheriff Bill Lutze and current Sheriff Stephanie Rennie. They've all been influential to me, as well as accessible, and engaged when I needed their help or guidance and when we needed to collaborate on trying to get something done. These are all great elected and appointed leaders, but also regular people that are fun to work with and hang out with.

“There are 400 County employees who are good, too. I want to mention a few people in the communities: Jaque Hickman in Lone Pine provides leadership; Kathy Goss in Darwin is a community leader; Susan Sorrells in Shoshone; and Robin Flinchum in Tecopa. They all



provide leadership in their communities, all care, and they all lead small communities in big ways.

"I just want to mention future leader Sophia Lomeli, a Hispanic woman just got elected to the Lone Pine School Board. Lone Pine in particular, has an emerging Spanish population that is and will continue to exert itself.

"I can't think about the last 12 years without mentioning my friend Jeff (Griffiths) and the ride we've had; and current CAO Greenberg, as he leads us into the digital age. Almost every week our department introduces new bright employees with so much potential and it's definitely the best part of our agenda. A common thread that runs through these individuals is a passion for their community, bravery, and providing direction even under pressure, and they transcend politics and use their instincts and intuitions in making important decisions.

"Take note that over the last two decades your County has been blessed with many strong, smart women in leadership positions, and all of these people have served with integrity and good moral compass. We should be proud that we are appointing and electing people to lead who are not ethically challenged. Take note, L.A. This is not to say that these people have always been right, and that they thought I was always right. In fact, at times we've tested our relationships, but another common thread has been our ability to recover and continue working for the good of our constituents.

"And, just a few comments about the Fifth District. I admit that I serve with a bit of a chip on my shoulder and I'm proud of it. I think that to represent the Fifth District one has to recognize that most of the citizens living in this county don't know where Charleston View is and have never been to Shoshone. Also to serve in this district, you have to drive fast, or you'll never get anywhere. The Fifth District's an amazing place. I feel exceptionally fortunate to have provided representation over the last 12 years for this amazing part of the county. The people and the landscape have been kind and supportive of me even in trying circumstances (like Covid in particular).

"I'll just say, lastly, that there's a reason why God gave us 5 fingers and 5 toes on each of our hands and feet; because in the Fifth District you have to kick ass and then remind people where you're from."

### *Adjournment*

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 7, 2025, in the County Administrative Center in Independence.

*Attest: NATE GREENBERG  
Clerk of the Board*

by:   
*Darcy Ellis, Assistant*

  
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Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors