

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

February 17, 2026

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 February 17, 2026, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Trina Orrill, presiding, Will Wadelton, Jeff Griffiths, Jennifer Roeser and Scott Marcellin. Also present: CAO David Fraser, County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo, and Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Israel.

Public Comment I The Chairperson asked for public comment related to closed session items and there was no one wishing to speak.

Closed Session Chairperson Orrill recessed open session at 8:33 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 – County Administrative Officer David Fraser, Assistant County Administrative Officer Denelle Carrington, Assistant Personnel Director Keri Oney, County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo, and Assistant County Counsel Christy Milovich; No. 3 **Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation – Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1)** – Name of case: *Inyo v. Wolverine/Inyo, LLC et. al.* (Case No. 23UC70164); No. 4 **Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: County Administrator; and No. 5 **Public Employment – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: Public Works Director.

Open Session Chairperson Orrill recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:05 a.m. with all Board members present.

Pledge of Allegiance Chairperson Orrill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Report on Closed Session County Counsel Vallejo reported that the Board met in Closed Session, took reports from staff and said the Board will reconvene later in the meeting to continue deliberations.

Public Comment II The Chairperson asked for public comment related to items not calendared on the agenda and public comment was received from Randy Short, Nate Reade, and Lauralyn Hundley.

Employee Service Milestones The Board of Supervisors recognized the following employees who reached service milestones during the fourth quarter, many of whom were in attendance to receive their commemorative pins:

- Amy Shepherd, 25 years – Auditor Controller
- Denelle Carrington, 25 years – CAO
- Dana Crom, 15 years – District Attorney
- John Vallejo, 10 years – County Counsel
- Allison Krohn, 20 years – Assessor
- Shiela Ward, 10 years – Auditor-Controller
- Franklin Landaverde-Calles, 20 years – Sheriff
- Stephanie Tanksley, 10 years – Health & Human Services
- Perla Veja Gastelum, 5 years – Health & Human Services
- Griselda Ortiz, 5 years – Health & Human Services
- Peter Charley, 10 years – Public Works

- Logan Wilcox, 10 years – Public Works
- William Eddy Jr, 5 years – Public Works.

Board Member Reports

Supervisor Orrill reported attending meetings with the City of Bishop, the Water Commission, and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Board, as well as the CSAC Challenge Awards dinner. She announced that Senate Bill 694 - legislation designed to protect veterans from predatory “claim sharks” – has been signed into law. She also introduced the new County Administrative Officer, David Fraser.

Supervisor Wadelton said that he participated in several community meetings in Tecopa with the soon-to-be nonprofit Southeast Inyo Advisory Committee, attended a Water Commission meeting, a Behavioral Health Advisory Board Committee meeting, toured the Amargosa monument with the Friends of the Amargosa Basin Committee (FAB), attended a Lone Pine Community Services District meeting, a community meeting in Olancho, and visited the Valentine’s Day marriage services event at the Clerk-Recorder’s Office. He added that he will be traveling to Apple Valley to meet with the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Marcellin reported attending internal staff meetings, a meeting with the Bishop Tribe and Local Transportation Commission (LTC) staff, and an Inyo Associates meeting. He noted that he will attend an upcoming LTC meeting and the National Association of Counties (NACo) Conference in Washington, D.C.

Supervisor Griffiths said that he attended meetings of the CSAC Board and the City of Bishop and will be participating in the NACo Conference and a meeting with Dr. Oz.

County Department Reports

Regional Broadband Coordinator Scott Armstrong announced his upcoming retirement and thanked the Board for its support since 2017. Armstrong highlighted progress on broadband projects and noted that the County is awaiting federal BEAD Program award decisions. Board members expressed their appreciation for his service.

Clerk-Recorder Danielle Sexton reported a successful Valentine’s Day marriage event with three ceremonies, provided an update on the June primary election filing period, and announced a new option for voters to opt out of receiving a printed voter information guide by April 7.

Director Anna Scott said the Behavioral Health Division is preparing to apply for new non-competitive planning grant funds for the Prop 36 diversion program and noted progress on the EMS Exclusive Operating Area 1 RFP process, including a proposers’ conference scheduled for Thursday.

Agricultural Commissioner Nate Reade addressed concerns about cannabis taxes, explained that licensing fees no longer cover enforcement costs due to fewer licensees, described the department’s lean operations, and said that he will return with more information after coordinating with the Tax Collector.

Clerk of the Board – Big Pine Cemetery District Board Reappointment

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to reappoint Melinda DeCoster to an unexpired four-year term on the Big Pine Cemetery District Board of Trustees, ending May 31, 2029. Motion carried unanimously.

County Counsel – Gibbs Gidden Locher Turner Senet & Whittbrodt LLP Contract Amendment No. 2

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve Amendment No. 2 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Gibbs Gidden Locher Turner Senet & Whittbrodt LLP, increasing the contract to an amount not to exceed \$625,000 and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

CAO-Information Services – MCCi LLC Contract

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to:

- A) Declare MCCi LLC. a sole-source provider of cloud document management services;
- B) Approve the agreement between the County of Inyo and MCCi LLC., for the

provision of cloud document management services for the County and one-time scanning service for Planning and HHS documents in an amount not to exceed \$493,102.12 for a period of three years, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets; and

C) Authorize the Chief Information Officer to sign the agreement and order form.
Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS –
Dwayne's Friendly
Pharmacy Agreement
Amendment No. 1*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve Amendment No. 1 to the agreement between the County of Inyo and Sabrina Enterprise Inc. dba Dwayne's Friendly Pharmacy of Bishop, CA, for the provision of pharmaceutical services, at an amount not to exceed \$1,112,000.00 through June 30, 2027, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –
CSA2 Advisory
Committee
Appointment*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to appoint Mr. Jason Handy to the County Service Area No. 2 (Bishop Creek Sewer) Advisory Committee to serve a term ending July 6, 2029. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works-
Recycling & Waste
Management –
Fee Waiver Request*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to waive the Solid Waste disposal and gate fees for the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation Environmental & Air Quality Department event, Saturday, April 18, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –
Independence Jail
Fencing Project*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve the plans and specifications for the Independence Jail Fencing Project and authorize the Public Works Director to advertise the project for bids. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –
Cold Mix Asphalt
Purchase*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to:
A) Declare Granite Construction of Bakersfield CA, the successful bidder for 2,525 tons of cold mixed asphalt, inclusive of the pricing proposal and Additive No. 1, in accordance with Bid No. RD25-08; and
B) Authorize the purchase of said cold mixed asphalt in an amount not to exceed \$455,282.79.
Motion carried unanimously.

*Sheriff –
FY 26-27 Cannabis
Tax Fund Grant
Program*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to authorize the submittal of the FY 2026-2027 Cannabis Tax Fund Grant Program application. Motion carried unanimously.

*Water Department –
2024-2025 Annual
LORP Accounting
Report*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to approve the 2024-2025 Lower Owens River Project Annual Accounting Report. Motion carried unanimously.

*Northern Inyo
Healthcare District
Update*

Northern Inyo Hospital CEO Christian Wallis, joined by Chief Financial Officer Andrea Mossman and Compliance Officer Patty Dixon, presented an update outlining severe financial challenges, including multimillion-dollar losses, a sharp reduction in supplemental funding, and difficulty meeting bond covenant requirements tied to cash reserves and profitability. The team detailed the district's complex bond history - especially a 2009 capital appreciation bond that cannot be refinanced or prepaid and is projected to accrue roughly \$28 million in interest - leaving taxpayers responsible for most of the district's \$49 million debt and raising the risk that bondholders could assume control of hospital operations.

Wallis highlighted strong quality-of-care metrics and described a long-term growth strategy focused on expanding outpatient capacity, improving facilities, recruiting needed specialists, and reducing patient leakage, with potential funding from federal loans, grants, and private investment, alongside regional collaboration with Mammoth and Southern Inyo.

Board members thanked hospital leadership for the candid update, and Wallis said staff will continue to keep the Board informed as the situation evolves.

Death Valley National Park Operations Update

Death Valley National Park Acting Deputy Superintendent Abbey Wines shared updates on ongoing flood-recovery and infrastructure repairs, significant staffing shortages, the Park obtaining ownership of the Death Valley Elementary School building, and continuing discussions with Rio Tinto regarding a potential land donation. She also highlighted recent events - including the Timbisha-Shoshone Homeland Act anniversary celebration and the Dark Sky Festival - along with 2025 visitation figures and anticipated increases driven by an emerging wildflower super bloom.

Chairperson Orrill asked if there was anyone from the public wishing to speak and public comment was received from Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe Environmental Director Mel Joseph.

Recess/Reconvene

Chairperson Orrill recessed the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors for a break at 12:28 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 1:02 p.m. with all Board members present.

County Counsel – Golden Mussel Infestation Prevention Ordinance

County Counsel Vallejo introduced the item, outlining revisions to the ordinance and noting that reciprocity provisions will extend to Mono County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes, pending approval by the County Administrative Officer. Chairperson Orrill also reported that the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe submitted a letter of support.

Moved by Supervisor Wadelton and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to waive further reading of the proposed ordinance with titled, "An Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California Creating Inyo County Code Chapter 10.70 Pertaining to the Establishment of a Mandatory Water Vessel Inspection and Decontamination Program," with noted changes and schedule enactment for March 3, 2026, in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, County Administrative Center, Independence. Motion carried unanimously.

CAO – 2025-2026 Strategic Grant Funding Plan Update

Administrative Operations Analyst Rebecca Graves of the Inyo County Project Management Office (PMO) and Heidi Schott from The Ferguson Group's (TFG) Grants Division presented an overview of the California State Association of Counties Grants Initiative (CGI) and provided updates on the County's 2025–2026 Grant Funding Strategy.

CAO-Personnel – HHS Deputy Director of Behavioral Health Personal Services Contract Amendment No. 1 and Resolution No. 2026-06

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Wadelton to:

- A) Approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Melissa Best-Baker for the provision of personal services as the Health and Human Services Deputy Director - Behavioral Health; and
- B) Approve Resolution No. 2026-06 titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Rescinding and Replacing Resolution 2025-25 and Setting Salary and/or Terms and Conditions of Employment for Management Employees Employed in the Several Offices or Institutions of the County of Inyo," and authorize the Chairperson to sign.

Motion carried unanimously.

CAO – FY 2025-2026 Mid-Year Financial Review

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Marcellin to:

- A) Accept the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Mid-Year Financial Report as presented;
- B) Approve the specific budget action items and recommendations discussed in the report, and represented in Attachments A & B (*4/5ths vote required*); and
- C) Direct staff to continue the emphasis on revenue attainment and expense savings in order to maximize year-end Fund Balances.

Motion carried unanimously.

Public Works – Lone Pine Water Main and Service Lateral Replacement Design Project/Lumos & Associates Contract

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Wadelton to:

- A) Amend the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Lone Pine Water Main & Service Lateral Design Budget 152220 as follows: increase estimated revenue in Operating Transfers In Revenue Code No. 4998 by \$381,361 and increase appropriation in Internal Charges Object Code 5124 by \$20,000 and increase appropriation in Construction In Progress Object Code 5700 by \$361,361. (*4/5ths vote required*);

- B) Amend the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Water Systems Budget 152199 as follows: increase appropriation in Operating Transfer Out Object Code 5801 by \$381,361. (4/5ths vote required);
- C) C) Approve the agreement between the County of Inyo and Lumos & Associates, Inc. of Reno, NV for the provision of engineering services in an amount not to exceed \$582,728.00 for the period of February 17, 2026 to January 5, 2029, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the CAO or designee to sign; and
- D) Authorize the CAO to accept the forthcoming grant for the Lone Pine Water Main and Lateral Replacement Design project from the State Water Resources Control Board.

Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment III

The Chairperson asked for public comment related to items not calendared on the agenda and Assistant Clerk of the Board Israel congratulated Assistant CAO Carrington for her 25 years of service to the County of Inyo.

Recess/Reconvene

Chairperson Orrill recessed the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors to reconvene in Closed Session at 1:23 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 2:06 p.m. with all Board members present.

Report on Closed Session

County Counsel Vallejo reported that no action was taken in Closed Session that is required to be reported by law.

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2:06 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 3, 2026, in the County Administrative Center in Independence.



Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

Attest: *DAVID FRASER*
Clerk of the Board

by: 

Darcy Israel, Assistant