

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

September 15, 2020

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 9:00 a.m., on September 15, 2020, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present via videoconferencing per California Governor Executive Order N-25-20: Chairperson Matt Kingsley, presiding, Dan Totheroh, Jeff Griffiths, Rick Pucci, and Mark Tillemans. Also present: County Administrative Officer Clint Quilter, Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Ellis, and County Counsel Marshall Rudolph.

Public Comment

Chairperson Kingsley asked the Assistant Clerk of the Board whether there was any public comment emailed for today's meeting for items not calendared on the agenda.

The Assistant Clerk of the Board read aloud a comment letter submitted online by David Werlin, Bargaining Director for SEIU Local 2015, advocating for wage and benefit increases for 130 In-Home Supportive Services care providers. The Assistant Clerk also referenced two additional documents that were also referenced in the letter: a list of IHSS wages and benefits statewide, and an update provided by SEIU on negotiations with the County. Copies were provided to Board members.

Closed Session

Chairperson Kingsley recessed open session at 9:03 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** – 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 Clint Quilter, Assistant County Administrator Leslie Chapman, Deputy Personnel Director Sue Dishion, County Counsel Marshall Rudolph, Health and Human Services Director Marilyn Mann, and Chief Probation Officer Jeff Thomson.

Open Session

Chairperson Kingsley recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:01 a.m. with all Board members present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Kingsley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Report on Closed Session

County Counsel Rudolph reported that no action was taken during closed session that is required to be reported.

Public Comment

Chairperson Kingsley asked if there was any public comment pending for items not calendared on the agenda.

The Assistant Clerk of the Board said no additional letters had been submitted, and nobody requested to speak to the Board via the "hand-waving" feature on Zoom.

County Department Reports

HHS Director Marilyn Mann reported that Public Health will be offering a smoking cessation program beginning October 1, 2020. She urged anyone interested to get in touch with the Prevention Office.

Assistant CAO Leslie Chapman announced that last week she received and signed a contract with the USDA for a \$50,000 grant for the Small Business Development Center, with \$35,000 going toward the development of operational and business plans and \$15,000 towards training. She said the timing is fortuitous given how many businesses are hurting due to COVID-19. She added that she is working with the City of Bishop on a CARES Act grant application to finance

a physical storefront for the center. Regarding Prop 68 funding, she said grantees are supposed to have 30-year leases and all of the other campground leases besides Diaz Lake are in limbo because LADWP has not renewed them and will not renew them in time for the Prop 68 December 31 grant deadline. She said the County has asked for a variance in the lease tenure requirement. Supervisor Griffiths said it is a disappointment that LADWP is once again standing in the way of good things for Inyo County.

*Presentation –
Radcliffe and
Keystone Mines*

Charles McLaughlin and John Hagestad of Bush Management Company, the owner of Radcliffe Mine and Keystone Mine, gave a brief presentation on the company's general plans for the two mines.

*COVID-19 Staff
Update*

HHS Director Marilyn Mann said she encouraged everyone to listen to the Governor's press conference at noon today, when he is expected to provide updates on the tier system and allow Inyo County to move down another tier – which would mean some indoor businesses will be allowed to open with certain restrictions.

HHS Deputy Director-Public Health Anna Scott reviewed current data with the Board, reporting that Inyo County is continuing to see a significant decrease in coronavirus cases. She said assuming the County continues at this trajectory, it can move through the tiers and open up more businesses. She added that part of the reason the State has slowed the reopening process is because flu season is arriving shortly. She listed some of the businesses that will be able to reopen if Inyo County is allowed to move to a lower tier today.

Public Health Officer Dr. Richardson said case rates and positivity rates have been improving over the past three weeks, but cautioned that the effects of Labor Day travel are still unknown. He said the outbreak at Bishop Care Center has been resolved and the facility is no longer on lockdown.

Assistant County Administrator Leslie Chapman said she is prepared to send an email blast to all affected businesses if the Governor announces Inyo County can move a tier. She gave an update on the REVIVE small business grant program, noting the deadline is 5 p.m. this Friday, after with the selection committee will start reviewing applications.

Supervisor Griffiths said he has been appointed by CSAC to a group that will monitor and report on the impacts to rural counties.

Wes French requested to provide public comment. He asked whether the driving force behind Inyo County's public health guidelines was appeasing the Governor or due to the number of coronavirus cases and deaths. He wondered who determines the cause of death in COVID patients and how it is attributed to the virus if the patient exhibited comorbidities. He also expressed concern that Inyo County is "continuing on lockdown" when so many of the cases are asymptomatic and coronavirus is like the flu. Ms. Mann responded by explaining the metrics Inyo County needs to meet for daily case rates and positivity rates. Dr. Richardson responded that approximately 40-45 percent of cases are asymptomatic and there are way more deaths from COVID-19 than the flu. He added that medical experts are finding that even people with mild cases are having long-term disabling effects that prevent them from returning to their previous quality of life. He also noted that there are a lot of cases and deaths in children attributed to the coronavirus.

Ms. Chapman noted that the County could lose its funding if it doesn't apply all the required safety standards to businesses. She said doing so has allowed Inyo to receive funding from the CARES Act, which it is using for its REVIVE small business grant program. She said she thinks the County gets criticized but there are a lot of businesses out there grateful to be getting the funding. She thanked them for sticking to the public safety guidelines.

Public Comment

Chairperson Kingsley called another public comment period to accommodate a resident wishing to speak on an item not calendared on the agenda.

An IHSS worker identified as "Joanna" spoke to the need for raises for providers. Her client also spoke to advocate for higher wages and better benefits for the IHSS workers.

HHS – Authorized

Note: the Ranges presented to the Board for approval were accompanied by incorrect dollar

*Strength
Change/Wellness
Center Program
Supervisor*

amounts. The correct corresponding dollar amounts for the Ranges approved by the Board appear below.

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Tillemans to:

- A) Approve the job description for a Wellness Center Program Supervisor at Range 70 (\$4,753 - \$5,781);
- B) Change the Authorized Strength in the HHS Behavioral Health Division by:
 - 1. deleting the MHSA Coordinator series that includes MHSA Coordinator I at Range 76 (\$5,476 - \$6,659), MHSA Coordinator II at Range 80 (\$6,018 - \$7,320), or Licensed MHSA Coordinator at Range 82 (\$6,322 - \$7,677); and
 - 2. adding one (1) Wellness Center Program Supervisor position at Range 70 (\$4,753 - \$5,781); and
- C) Find that, consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy:
 - 1. the availability of funding for one (1) Wellness Center Program Supervisor position exists in the non-General Fund Behavioral Health budget, as certified by the HHS Director and concurred with by the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller;
 - 2. the vacancy can be filled by internal candidates meeting the qualifications for the positions;
 - 3. approve the internal recruitment and hiring of one (1) Wellness Center Program Supervisor at Range 70 (\$4,753 - \$5,781); and
 - 4. authorize Health and Human Services to backfill any resulting vacancy.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Planning –
Assistant Planner*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths for the Board to find that, consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy: A) the availability of funding for the requested position exists in the Planning Department budget, as certified by the Planning Director and concurred with by the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller; B) where internal candidates may meet the qualifications for the position, the vacancy could possibly be filled through an internal recruitment, but an open recruitment is more appropriate to ensure qualified applicants apply; and C) approve the hiring of one (1) Assistant Planner, Range 70, (\$4,753 - \$5,781). Motion carried unanimously.

*Road Department –
Heavy Equipment
Operator I/II*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Pucci for the Board to find that, consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy: A) the availability of funding for one (1) Heavy Equipment Operator I/II exists in the Road Budget, as certified by the Public Works Director and concurred with by the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller; B) where internal candidates may meet the qualifications for the position, the vacancy could possibly be filled through an internal recruitment, but an open recruitment is more appropriate to ensure qualified applicants apply; and C) approve the hiring of one (1) Heavy Equipment Operator I/II at Range 58 (\$3,583 - \$4,359) or Range 60 (\$3,758 - \$4,564), depending on qualifications. Motion carried unanimously.

*Coroner – Jamie
Cogorno Contract*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Jamie Cogorno, for Personal Services for the term of October 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$45,000, contingent upon the adoption of future budgets, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent on all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS-Social Services
– CWDA FY 20-21
Dues*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to authorize payment to the California Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) for dues for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 in an amount not to exceed \$20,634.00. Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO-Advertising
County Resources –
Film Commissioner
Oral Report*

Inyo County Film Commissioner Chris Langley provided to the Board his semiannual oral report on filming activities in the area.

*HHS-Fiscal – Prior-
Year SIH Payment*

Moved by Supervisor Tillemans and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to ratify and approve the payment of \$15,721.21 to Southern Inyo Hospital for medical services for an Inyo County inmate provided in a prior fiscal year. Motion carried unanimously.

HHS-Health & Prevention – Child Abuse Prevention Council Agreement

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Tillemans to ratify and approve the agreement between the County of Inyo and the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Sacramento of North Highlands, CA for the provision of Innovative Partnerships Sierra-Sacramento Child Abuse Prevention Council Region Project for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 20, 2021, and authorize the Inyo County First 5 Director to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

CAO – Final Board Approved FY 20-21 Budget Adoption/Reso # 2020-42

CAO Quilter thanked his partners on the Budget Team, Auditor-Controller Amy Shepherd and Senior Budget Analyst Denelle Carrington, for all their hard work on this fiscal year's budget. He reviewed the proposed Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Final Board Approved Budget, which includes changes to the CAO Recommended Budget that were directed by the Board on September 8 during budget hearings – specifically, how to spend the \$936,077 in excess Fund Balance certified by the Auditor-Controller above \$3,500,000 (for a total Fund Balance of \$4,436,077). Quilter noted the Board directed adding \$836,077 to the General Fund Contingencies budget and adding \$100,000 to the CAO-COVID19 budget to create a grant program to help Inyo County non-profit organizations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The changes were incorporated into the Final Board Approved Budget. Auditor-Controller Shepherd thanked CAO Quilter for this leadership throughout the budget process, noting that this was an unusual year and the budget went smoothly. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to: A) adopt the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget as recommended by the County Administrator and as amended, and as directed on September 8, 2020; and B) approve a resolution titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Adopting the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021." Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk of the Board – Approval of Minutes

The Assistant Clerk of the Board announced an error on page 2 of the August 25, 2020 minutes in which she reported a dollar amount as \$1,000 instead of \$2,000. She advised the Board that the minutes have been corrected. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve the minutes of the regular Board of Supervisors meetings of August 25, 2020 and September 1, 2020, as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

The Chairperson solicited public comment for the final public comment period. No additional comments had been emailed and nobody requested to speak to the Board via the "hand-waving" feature on Zoom.

Board Member and Staff Reports

Supervisor Griffiths reported attending a CSAC meeting with the State Public Health Director and said there is a community meeting being held on the safe parking project tomorrow night and an Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership meeting Thursday evening.

Supervisor Totheroh reported participating in yesterday's blood drive.

Chairperson Kingsley noted the Board will not be in session again until October 6, and also reported going on a tour of mitigation projects with Supervisor Pucci and Water Department staff.

Adjournment

Chairperson Kingsley adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, September 8, 2020 in the County Administrative Center in Independence.

Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

Attest: *CLINT G. QUILTER*
Clerk of the Board

by: _____
Darcy Ellis, Assistant