

# MINUTES



# County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

## November 3, 2020

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 10 a.m., on November 3, 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, and Rick Pucci. Also present: County Administrative Officer Clint Quilter, Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Ellis, and County Counsel Marshall Rudolph. Absent: Mark Tillemans.

*Pledge of Allegiance* Chairperson Kingsley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

*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 read aloud a letter from Stephanie DeWolfe reiterating her requests from October for more funding for the Sheriff's Office so that it has the resources to investigate the murder of her mother, who went missing in 2003 and whose body was discovered in Death Valley in 2008.

*County Department Reports* Planning Director Cathreen Richards provided updates on Caltrans' Meadow Farms ADA project; the exploratory drilling project on Conglomerate Mesa that was approved by the BLM; proposals to be considered by the State Wildlife Conservation Board involving a large trees study and a land acquisition grant for The Nature Conservancy; and the effort underway to identify vacant land suitable for housing development.

Interim Environmental Health Director Walt Kruse said that, due to the pandemic's economic impacts on businesses, the department has decided not to add the usual cost-of-living adjustment to the fee schedule this year and also allow businesses that might not be operating anymore to defer their payments without late fees.

*COVID-19 Staff Update* HHS Director Marilyn Mann reported Inyo County has 243 cases of coronavirus, with a potential of four more being added to the total by tonight. She reported on the potential for the county being moved back tomorrow to the "Red Tier" in the State's color-coded, 4-tier system being used in California's Blueprint to Recovery. She noted that staff is hopeful its efforts to ensure the state has more accurate data for Inyo County will help prevent the move.

HHS Deputy Director-Public Health Anna Scott said staff is focusing on the continuation of community-based testing once the State's contract with Verily expires. She said staff is looking at options to expand testing and tracking capabilities and working very closely with the California Department of Public Health to ensure Inyo County's needs are communicated and the County has strategies for going forward. Scott reported that it's looking like the vaccine most likely to be approved by the FDA first requires ultra-cold storage. She noted the County has a draft vaccine plan in place that is being updated in advance of the State's December deadline for submission. Scott also said staff continues to meet weekly with the Inyo County Office of Education about school reopenings. She said she wanted to remind people to start planning for holiday gatherings and minimizing the risk involved, such as limiting the number of different groups they are socializing with. Scott noted that the County is continuing to offer flu shots and is seeing great demand for them this year.

Assistant County Administrator Leslie Chapman gave an update on the REVIVE grant program, which will soon be moving into the reporting phase for grantees. She said staff will be instructing them on saving receipts and invoices since the funding is subject to audit. She said with regard to the program, it's not commonly understood by the public that the funding for the

grant program belonged to Inyo County as part of a larger allocation, which the County can use for any kind of COVID-19 related spending it needs to. She noted a lot of counties that received CARES Act funds used them for public safety, public health, and other costs associated with the pandemic. Chapman said the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, however, allocated \$800,000 of the County's funding to aid local businesses – in a purely discretionary move. She said a lot of businesses are super appreciative and on behalf of all of them, she wanted to thank the Board for approving the grant program.

Chairperson Kingsley said he is glad the Board had good counsel from staff and that the County was in a position to be able to offer the funding. He said Chapman and the rest of the selection committee did an amazing job of distributing the funds, which was a very difficult task, and he is proud of how hard staff worked on the program and how successful it is.

*HHS-Health & Prevention – Lamar Companies Sole-Source Contract*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to: A) declare The Lamar Companies (a.k.a. Lamar) of Lancaster, CA a sole-source provider of billboard advertising; B) approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Lamar of Lancaster, CA for the provision of two vinyl panel billboards for the Tobacco Education Program in an amount not to exceed \$18,750.00 for the period of January 21, 2021 through July 7, 2021, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets; and C) authorize the County Administrator to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Tillemans absent.

*Public Works – Election Generator Project Plans & Specs*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve the plans and specifications for the Election Emergency Standby Generators Installation Project and authorize the Public Works Director to advertise the project. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Tillemans absent.

*Public Works – John Deere Grader Purchase*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to authorize a purchase order in an amount not to exceed \$337,414.72, payable to Coastline Equipment Company of Las Vegas, NV for one (1) new John Deere 672G Motor Grader with 6WD. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Tillemans absent.

*Sheriff-Veterans Service Office – Annual Compliance Certificates*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to authorize the Chairperson to sign the Medi-Cal Certificate of Compliance Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and Certificate of Compliance for Subvention Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Tillemans absent.

*HHS-Social Services – Philips Lifeline Contract*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to ratify and approve the agreement between the County of Inyo and Philips Lifeline of Framingham, MA for the provision of an Emergency Response Monitoring System in an amount not to exceed \$6,000 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Tillemans absent.

*HHS-Social Services – Redwood Toxicology Contract*

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to award, ratify and approve the contract for the provision of urine sample collection devices (supplies) and laboratory services with Redwood Toxicology Laboratory, Inc. of Santa Rosa, CA in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 for the period of November 1, 2020 through June 30, 2024, contingent upon the Board's adoption of future budgets, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Tillemans absent.

*HHS-First 5 – Bishop Friends of the Library Dolly Parton Program MOU*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to ratify and approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Inyo First 5 Children and Families Commission and Bishop Friends of the Library, for the provision of the literacy program for Inyo County children from birth to age five (5) under Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program, in an amount not to exceed \$1,886 for the period of November 1, 2020 through November 1, 2021, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the First 5 Director to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Tillemans absent.

*Clerk of the Board –*  
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Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve the minutes of

*Approval of Minutes* the regular Board of Supervisors meeting of October 27, 2020. Motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Supervisor Tillemans absent.

*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 Totheroh reported that he has an Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council meeting on Wednesday, a meeting of the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District board on Thursday, and a Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting on Monday.

Supervisor Griffiths reported having a busy week, including meetings involving the Regional Forest Fire Capacity Program and Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation, with another busy week coming up, including meetings of the IMACA, Inyo Council for the Arts, and Sierra Nevada Conservancy boards.

Supervisor Pucci reported attending a meeting of the Northern Inyo Airport Advisory Committee.

CAO Quilter said staff is proposing to “uncancel” the December 1 meeting and cancel the November 24 meeting instead, and the Assistant Clerk of the Board would be reaching out to get supervisor input.

Chairperson Kingsley asked whether the number of Free Green Waste weekends at the landfills could be increased since people are doing more work at home and it would encourage them to take their brush to the landfills. He also reported having a number of meetings with constituents and the Rural County Representatives of California, with more RCRC meetings and the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District board meeting on the horizon for this week.

*Adjournment* Chairperson Kingsley adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, November 10, 2020 in the County Administrative Center in Independence.

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Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

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

by: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Darcy Ellis, Assistant*