

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

August 10, 2021

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 August 10, 2021, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present via webinar per California Governor Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-08-21: Chairperson Jeff Griffiths, presiding, Dan Totheroh, Rick Pucci, Jennifer Roeser, and Matt Kingsley. Also present: Sue Dishion as Acting County Administrator, Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Ellis, and County Counsel Marshall Rudolph.

Public Comment

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

The Assistant Clerk of the Board did not receive any emailed comments and nobody requested to speak to the Board via the “hand-raising” feature on Zoom.

Closed Session

Chairperson Griffiths 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 LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION – Pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code §54956.9** – Names of cases: *LADWP v. Inyo County et al.* (CA 5th District Court of Appeal Case No. F081389) and *Inyo County v. LADWP* (Kern County Sup. Ct. Case Nos. BCV-18-101260-TSC, BCV-18-101261-TSC, and BCV-18-101262-TSC); No. 3 **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION** – Significant exposure to potential litigation pursuant to (2) of subdivision (d) of Government Code §54956.9. Facts and circumstance: Use of force incident on July 24, 2021. Number of potential cases: one; No. 4 **CONFERENCE WITH COUNTY’S LABOR NEGOTIATORS – Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6** – 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 – Acting 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 Griffiths recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10 a.m. with all Board members present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Griffiths led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Report on Closed Session

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

Public Comment

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

The Assistant Clerk of the Board did not receive any emailed comments and nobody requested to speak to the Board via the “hand-raising” feature on Zoom.

Supervisor Roeser wished Chairperson Griffiths a happy birthday.

County Department Reports

Environmental Health Director Jerry Oser provided an update on his meeting with the Division of Drinking Water regarding problems people are having getting ahold of staff.

Introduction

New employee Timothy Harmon, Appraiser in the Assessor's Office, was introduced to the Board.

COVID-19 Staff Update

Deputy HHS Director-Public Health & Prevention Anna Scott reported an increase of 23 COVID-19 cases over the past seven days as well as an increase in vaccinations with 150 done last week alone. She and Public Health Officer Dr. James Richardson said there was one hospitalization in the ICU last week, but the individual has been transferred to a larger hospital out of the area.

Philip Anaya of Bishop urged the County to consider mandating face masks in public for everyone, whether vaccinated or not, in order to keep the number of cases down and be in line with several Southern California counties and Mono County.

HHS-Health & Prevention – Human Services Supervisor

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley for the Board to find that, consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy: A) the availability of funding for one (1) Human Services Supervisor exists in a non-General Fund budget, as certified by the HHS 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) Human Services Supervisor at Range 70 (\$4,943 - \$6,012). Motion carried unanimously.

Probation – Probation Services Coordinator

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to:
A) approve the job description for a Probation Services Coordinator;
B) find that, consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy:
1. the availability of funding for one (1) Probation Services Coordinator exists in the General Fund, as certified by the Chief Probation Officer and concurred with by the County Administrator and Auditor-Controller; and
2. 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) Probation Services Coordinator at Range 67 (\$4,512 - \$5,476).

Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff – Animal Services Shelter Attendant

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh for the Board to find that consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy: A) the availability of funding for one (1) Animal Services Shelter Attendant exists in the General Fund, as certified by the Sheriff 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 internal recruitment, but open recruitment is more appropriate to ensure qualified applicants apply; C) approve the hiring of one (1) Animal Shelter Attendant at Range 42 (\$2,577 - \$3,131); and D) if an internal candidate is hired as a result of the open recruitment, authorize the Sheriff's Office to backfill resulting vacancy. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff – Public Safety Dispatcher

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Roeser for the Board to find that, consistent with the adopted Authorized Position Review Policy: A) the availability of funding for one (1) Public Safety Dispatcher exists in the General Fund, as certified by the Sheriff 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 internal recruitment, but an open recruitment is more appropriate to ensure qualified applicants apply; C) approve the hiring of one (1) Public Safety Dispatcher at Range 55-64 (\$3,477 - \$5,211); and D) if an internal candidate is hired as a result of the open recruitment, authorize the Sheriff's Office to backfill the resulting vacancy. Motion carried unanimously.

HHS-Behavioral Health – Appointment of Alcohol & Drug Program

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to appoint HHS Assistant Director Meaghan McCamman as the Inyo County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrator consistent with California Health and Safety Code (HSC) Section 11800. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator

*Planning –
Helix Contract
Amendment 1*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Helix Environmental Planning to amend the fee schedule, contingent upon adoption of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

*Planning – USGS
Joint Funding
Agreement*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve the Joint Funding Agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey for Wells and Springs Monitored in the Amargosa Desert in the amount of \$8,000 for the period of October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works –
Progress House
Generator
N.O.C./Reso
2021-42*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve Resolution No. 2021-42, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California Authorizing the Recording of a Notice of Completion for the Progress House Generator Project," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*Ag Commissioner –
2020 Crop &
Livestock Report*

Ag Commissioner Nate Reade gave the Board a presentation on the 2020 Annual Crop and Livestock Report.

*Water Department –
OVGA GSP Draft
Workshop*

Water Director Dr. Aaron Steinwand gave an informational workshop regarding the status and summary of the administrative draft of the OVGA Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Sally Manning, Environmental Director of the Big Pine Paiute Tribe, expressed disappointment that no stakeholder and/or public comments seem to be reflected in the document, which also doesn't include recommendations for proactive action. She said Inyo County has to have a vision now in order to assert itself in the management of Owens Valley groundwater. Philip Anaya of Bishop cited what he called two glaring deficiencies in the document: nothing included to deal with management of the border between adjudicated and non-adjudicated lands in order to protect domestic wells; and failure to take into account public comment that has been made repeatedly since the entire effort started.

*Water Department –
OVGA Rep Direction*

Water Director Dr. Aaron Steinwand sought direction from the Board for the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority representatives in advance of the OVGA regular meeting scheduled for August 12, 2021. Supervisor Totheroh, the Board's OVGA representative, said all of the agenda items are fairly straightforward and he doesn't see anything that would change direction he has been given in the past. Philip Anaya of Bishop asked that Inyo County support the idea of voluntary inclusion of adjudicated lands in the GSP in order to manage the boundary and seek opportunities for surface flow management for groundwater recharge.

*County
Administrator –
Surplus Office
Furniture*

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to declare a limited amount of office furniture staged at the fairgrounds after the move to the County Office Building that was subsequently acquired by various local agencies to be surplus; and B) approve the donation of said office furniture to various local agencies (*4/5ths vote required*). Motion carried unanimously.

*County
Counsel/County
Administrator –
Proposed Chapter
2.07 & 2.30
Ordinances*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to:

- A) waive further reading of the proposed ordinance titled, "An Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, Repealing Chapter 2.07 of the Inyo County Code, Pertaining to Reorganization of County Departments and Offices," and schedule enactment for 11 a.m. August 17, 2021, in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, County Administrative Center, Independence; and
- B) waive further reading of the proposed ordinance titled, "An Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, Repealing Ordinance Number 1044 and Establishing a New Chapter 2.30 of the Inyo County Code," and schedule enactment for 11 a.m. August 17, 2021, in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, County Administrative Center, Independence.

Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

The Chairperson solicited public comment for the final public comment period.

The Assistant Clerk of the Board did not receive any emailed comments and nobody requested to speak to the Board via the "hand-raising" feature on Zoom.

Board Member and Staff Reports

Supervisor Roeser announced Supervisor Kingsley will be standing in for her during a virtual town hall on Thursday with the State's Insurance Commissioner, and noted she has an upcoming meeting with the VA regarding services available to local Veterans Service Officers.

Supervisor Kingsley said he was given a tour of the new Consolidated Office Building and confirmed he will be attending Thursday's virtual town hall.

Supervisor Totheroh said he attended a Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting yesterday and has meetings of the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority and Eastern Sierra Transit/Eastern Sierra Council of Governments the rest of the week.

Chairperson Griffiths said he will be traveling to Sacramento for a California Association of Counties meeting and will also be participating in the ESTA/ESCOG meetings.

Adjournment

Chairperson Griffiths adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, August 17, 2021 in the County Administrative Center in Independence.



Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

*Attest: LESLIE CHAPMAN
Clerk of the Board*

by: _____
Darcy Ellis, Assistant