

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

April 7, 2020

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 April 14, 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 Tothoroh, Jeff Griffiths, Rick Pucci, and Mark Tillemans.

- Pledge* Chairperson Kingsley led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Public Comment* Chairperson Kingsley asked the Assistant Clerk of the Board whether there was any public comment emailed for today's meeting.
- The Assistant Clerk of the Board said there were not.
- County Department Reports* Planning Director Cathreen Richards said her office has fielded a lot of questions lately from residents who haven't received their Census form in the mail. She said the Census forms are not being delivered to post office boxes. Richards also reported Caltrans released a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Meadow Farms ADA project, noting that anyone with questions should contact Caltrans.
- Treasurer-Tax Collector Alisha McMurtrie reported that over 95% of property tax payments were collected by the April 10 deadline, demonstrating residents' commitment to their communities. She said there could be legislation to allow waivers of tax penalties due to corona-virus economic hardship. She said more information is available on her webpage.
- HHS Director Marilyn Mann reported that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- COVID-19 Staff Update* HHS Director Marilyn Mann gave an update on coronavirus activity in the county as well as her department's efforts to address the outbreak, including a partnership with IMACA to provide shelter for homeless individuals who have tested positive for or are suspected to have the virus.
- Dr. James Richardson reported that the COVID-19 situation in Inyo County seems to be stabilizing, with negative tests showing a decreased prevalence of the virus in the community. He said he believed the cancellation of mass gatherings, the Stay-at-Home order, and directives to wear face masks have been effective in helping to flatten the curve.
- Sheriff Jeff Hollowell reported that his office has received several complaints of non-essential businesses continuing to operate in the southeast section of the county. He said the businesses owners were very cooperative in coming back into compliance with local and state orders.
- CAO – Jarrett Michael Schneider Contract* Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Tothoroh to approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Jarrett Michael Schneider, for Personal Services for the term of April 15, 2020 through June 30, 2021, for a total amount not to exceed \$30,000, contingent upon the Board's adoption of future budgets, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.
- HHS-Fiscal – 2020-2023 Medi-Cal Inmate Program* Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Tothoroh to approve Health and Human Services' participation in the Medi-Cal Inmate Program and authorize the HHS Director to sign the county participation form and participation agreement for Fiscal Years 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023, contingent on upon approval of future budgets. Motion carried

<i>Participation</i>	unanimously.
<i>Planning – Daniel B. Stephens & Assoc. Contract Amendment 3</i>	Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve Amendment No. 3 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc. for the provision of hydrological services, to amend all Sections relating to the Term of the agreement to be April 25, 2017 to April 25, 2021, contingent upon adoption of future budgets, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Public Works – Thai Thai Restaurant Lease Amendment 1</i>	Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve Amendment No. 1 to the Lease Agreement between the County of Inyo and Supattra Bergstrom, assigning Ms. Bergstrom’s lease to Robert Nash for the operation of the Thai Thai Restaurant, located at Bishop Airport, Bishop, CA, as provided for in section thirty (30) of the current lease; and authorize the Chairperson to sign the Lease Agreement contingent upon the appropriate signatures being obtained and contingent upon the adoption of future budgets. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Public Works – 19-20 Federal Apportionment Federal Exchange & State Match</i>	Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to: A) approve the 2019/2020 Federal Apportionment Program Federal Exchange and State Match Program, Agreement No. X20-5948(099), with the California Department of Transportation in the amount of \$673,353 plus a State match of \$100,000 for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$773,353; and B) authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Public Works – 2019-2024 Capital Improvement Program</i>	Public Works Director Mike Errante and Road Superintendent Chris Cash presented to the Board the proposed 2019-2024 Capital Improvement Program, which outlines upcoming road projects and must be submitted to the State along with a Board-approved resolution (being presented to the Board April 21) listing the specific projects. Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve the 2019-2024 Capital Improvement Program with an emphasis on the 2020-2021 Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program Funded Road Projects. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>HHS-Social Services – Life Remedies and Celebrations Contract Amendment 1</i>	HHS Director Marilyn Mann presented a proposed amendment to the contract with Life Remedies and Celebrations, the employer of record for IHSS workers in Inyo County and the entity in charge of negotiations. She said the amendment is needed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, since both IHSS workers and recipients are considered vulnerable populations. She amending the contract will help ensure continued access to IHSS services. Supervisor Griffiths said this is an important step and he hoped it would be able to cover program needs. Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to ratify and approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Life Remedies and Celebrations of Corning, CA, increasing the contract to an amount not to exceed \$251,400.00, 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.
<i>Planning – Haiwee Pumped Storage Facility Preliminary Permit</i>	Planning Director Cathreen Richards briefed the Board on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) granting of a Preliminary Permit for the Haiwee Project (pumped storage facility), which allows Premium Energy to study the feasibility of a hydroelectric pumpback station for 24 months. She stressed that the current permit does not authorize pumping or other ground disturbance projects. Richards reviewed the process up until now, which included the Board submitting comments. She said most of the County’s comments have been addressed by Premium Energy, and the others can’t be addressed until the company applies for an actual license. The Chairperson asked the Assistant Clerk of the Board if any public comment had been emailed for this agenda item. She said a comment was submitted by Bryan Hatchell of Friends of the Inyo, and read the comment aloud. Hatchell said Premium Energy will likely submit a proposal to the BLM for ground studies at McCloud Flat and Little Cactus Flat, and that Friends of the Inyo, local tribes, and citizens will push to protect these sites. He stated he would refrain from listing the environmental concerns, of which he said there are many, and said the biggest roadblocks that need to be addressed with the project are transmission and water rights.
<i>Board Member and Staff Reports</i>	Supervisor Tillemans reported the LTC meeting he mentioned last week is actually tomorrow. Supervisor Griffiths reported on the Inyo County Community Volunteer Network, which has residents signed up to deliver food, check on vulnerable individuals, and staff the help line. He

also reported he attended the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority meeting last week, and the Bishop City Council meeting last night.

CAO Quilter reported that the bulk of the County workforce has been transitioned to work from home. Others are actively providing essential services, and some are working in shifts in their departments to maintain social distancing protocols. Quilter thanked the employees, department heads, Information Services Director Scott Armstrong, and Deputy Personnel Director Sue Dishion, saying everyone has gone above and beyond during this health crisis. He also noted work on the FY 20-21 budget continues, and the County will likely be facing a hit in TOT revenue.

Chairperson Kingsley reported on spontaneous volunteer efforts happening in Southeast Inyo to ensure friends and neighbors have food and other essentials, and reported on the Easter Bunny Drive-by this weekend in Olancha, Keeler, Lone Pine, and Independence.

Closed Session

Chairperson Kingsley recessed open session at 10:15 a.m. to convene in closed session with all Board members to discuss the following item(s): No.14 **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION** – Name of case: *Inyo County v. Wilder Barton Inc.* (Case No. SICVCV 19-64071).; and No. 15 **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 11 a.m. with all Board members present.

Report on Closed Session

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

Adjournment

Chairperson Kingsley adjourned the meeting at 11 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 21, 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