

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

June 8, 2021

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 8:31 a.m., on June 8, 2021, 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 Jeff Griffiths, presiding, Dan Totheroh, Rick Pucci, Jennifer Roeser, and Matt Kingsley. Also present: County Administrative Officer Clint Quilter, 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.

There were no letters submitted for items not calendared on the agenda, and nobody requested to speak via Zoom.

Closed Session Chairperson Griffiths recessed open session at 8:32 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); and No. 3 **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 – Administrative Officer Clint Quilter, Assistant County Administrator Leslie Chapman, Deputy Personnel Director Sue Dishon, 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 10:01 a.m. with all Board members present.

Pledge of Allegiance Supervisor Griffiths 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 Griffiths asked if there was any public comment pending for items not calendared on the agenda.

There were no letters submitted for items not calendared on the agenda, and nobody requested to speak via Zoom.

County Department Reports HHS Director Marilyn Mann reminded the Board that June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month and encouraged the public to check in today on a senior citizen they know.

Assistant Clerk-Recorder Michele Hartshorn was unable to attend the meeting due to staff training on a new recording system, but emailed a letter that was read aloud by the Assistant Clerk of the Board. In her letter, Ms. Hartshorn provided the Board with an update on the implementation of the new system, as well as the pending gubernatorial recall election, and

urged the Board to appoint a new Clerk-Recorder as soon as possible.

Introductions

The following new employees were introduced to the Board: Rebecca Graves, Administrative Analyst II, HHS; Elizabeth Nunez, Office Clerk, HHS; Sonja Velarde, Administrative Assistant, HHS; and Tammy Martinez, Office Clerk, Probation.

COVID-19 Staff Update

The Board heard staff's weekly update on the status of COVID-19 cases locally, as well as state and national trends. HHS Director Marilyn Mann said Inyo County remains in the yellow tier of the State's Blueprint for Economic Recovery, which goes away June 15 resulting in fewer restrictions on a lot of businesses. She said the governor is not rescinding his emergency proclamation just yet, however. Deputy HHS Director-Public Health Anna Scott said Inyo County's vaccine coverage rate (of at least one shot) is 64%. She said after the Blueprint is no longer in effect, the California Department of Public Health is expected to issue updated guidelines for masking that align with the CDC. She added that some restrictions on businesses will continue through OSHA. She said it is not expected that people will have to show their vaccine cards unless they are traveling or attending a mega event. Ms. Mann noted that individuals should still continue to heed the advice on hand-washing and social distancing. Public Health Officer Dr. James Richardson added that any vulnerable individuals should still be taking precautions against the virus. Public comment was received from Wes French, who said regulations have been inconsistent with science and the County cannot continue to push rules based on faulty information. He also questioned by the government is pushing an experimental vaccine that is deadly. Mr. French said all lockdown mandates should be ended.

Public Works – Engineer Associate Civil, Associate Engineer, Engineering Assistant I-II

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh 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 the requested position exists in the General Fund, 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) Engineer Associate Civil at Range 82 (\$6,322 - \$7,677); Associate Engineer at Range 78 (\$5,741 - \$6,976 or an Engineering Assistant I at Range 71 (\$4,863 - \$5,913) or an Engineering Assistant II at Range 75 (\$5,349 - \$6,501), depending on qualifications. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer-Tax Collector – Office Technician II or III

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) Office Technician II or III exists in the General Fund, as certified by the Treasurer-Tax Collector 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) Office Technician II at Range 59 (\$3,669 - \$4,558) or Office Technician III at Range 63 (\$4,023 - \$4,895). Motion carried unanimously.

Child Support – Placer County Plan of Cooperation

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve the Plan of Cooperation between Eastern Sierra Department of Child Support Services and Placer County Department of Child Support Services, as a sole-source provider of Child Support legal services during the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, for the sum of \$77,511.96, contingent upon the Board's approval of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

County Counsel - Greg James Water Contract Amendment 2

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve Amendment No. 2 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Gregory L. James, Attorney at Law, decreasing the contract to an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00 and extending the term end date from June 30, 2021 to June 30, 2022 contingent upon the Board's approval of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Planning – Daniel B. Stephens Contract Amendment 5

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve Amendment No. 5 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc. for provision of hydrological services in relation to the Hydrological Mitigation Monitoring Plan for Conditional Use Permit No. 2007-03 (Coso Operating Company, LLC), amending the schedule of fees, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

Probation – Siemens Industry Contract Amendment 2

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement between the County of Inyo and Siemens Industry Inc. of Fresno, CA to extend the Agreement from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, contingent upon the Board's approval of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Works – BN Plow Sales and Service Bid Award

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to declare BN Plow Sales and Service of Running Springs, CA the successful bidder for three (3) Meyers Rock Plow packages and (1) Meyers Snow Plow package per Bid No. RD21-07; and B) authorize the purchase of three (3) Meyers Rock Plows packages along with the exception of two (2) additional Carbide inserts for a total of 8 carbide inserts as requested in the initial bid and one (1) Meyers Snow Plow package from BN Plow Sales and Service of Running Springs, CA in an amount not to exceed \$32,122.87. Motion carried unanimously.

HHS – Traumatic Stress Institute Contract

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Traumatic Stress Institute of New Britain, CT for the provision of Trauma Informed Care Training and Coaching Services in an amount not to exceed \$109,642 for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

BOS – Support of Gov. Broadband Infrastructure Proposal

Moved by Jennifer Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve and authorize the Chairperson to sign letters to Senator Borgeas and Assemblyman Mathis supporting the Governor's statewide broadband infrastructure proposal. Motion carried unanimously.

Recess/Reconvene

The Chairperson recessed the meeting for a break at 11:00 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 11:10 a.m. with all Board members present.

HHS – Coalition of Care Presentation

Chairperson Griffiths introduced a presentation on the Coalition of Care. He said there is a lot of public interest in the homelessness issue, especially the safe parking project, and while the public is welcome to discuss that, he would like to take a more holistic view of the state of homelessness in Inyo County and what services are available through the Coalition of Care. He noted that it's common to take a somewhat fragmented approach to the issue and put a lot of weight on IMACA's and Larry Emerson's shoulders. He said he wanted the Board to consider what investments the County can make to relieve some of that burden.

HHS Director Marilyn Mann and Mr. Emerson gave a PowerPoint presentation that provided homelessness statistics and an overview of the various programs offered through the County, IMACA, and the Coalition of Care. Mr. Emerson also discussed funding sources and plans for a 24-hour "Navigation Center" to help direct people to aid and services – a concept that the Board liked. Extensive discussion ensued among the Board, Ms. Mann, and Mr. Emerson regarding the numbers of homeless individuals in Inyo County, accuracy of those numbers, low-income and workforce housing availability, and financial resources for programs and projects.

The Chairperson opened the discussion to public comment.

Verbal comments were made by Gigi de Jong, Fran Hunt, Sarah Solnit, Tiffany Lau, Harold McDonald, Julie Tiede, Drew Wickman, Kay Ogden, and Anthony Ottati. Speakers shared many of the same viewpoints, thanking staff and the Board for a comprehensive, edifying presentation on the larger issue of homelessness in the region and the work being done to help the homeless. They also indicated that while there is indeed a bigger picture to consider, it should not prevent the County from acting in the short-term to help make the previously denied safe parking project a reality for those who need it now. Many speakers also requested continued updates from the Board on the progress of finding an alternate parking site, including a public workshop, and that the County works with IMACA and the City of Bishop on a solution.

Written comments were submitted by Barbara Kelley, Roberta Cummings, Kathy and Mike Barnes, Erica Rotondo, Karen Roseme, Derik Olson, Sydney Quinn, Michael Bonne and Lisa Lilley, Joy Wilson, Deena Davenport-Conway, Todd Vogel, Diana Cunningham, and Taimur

Ahmad. These were read aloud by the Assistant Clerk of the Board. The writers shared many of the same sentiments expressed by the speakers, focusing in particular on the need for a safe parking area sooner than later, more communication from the Board on what is or is not being done on the issue, and a public workshop, perhaps with the City of Bishop.

Discussion between the Board, Mr. Emerson, and Ms. Mann continued. There was talk of a possible task force, but it was noted that is essentially what the Coalition of Care is. The Board asked for more details regarding what properties Mr. Emerson has looked at as possible alternate sites. He said IMACA has reached out to numerous organizations and property owners – including the owners of the Kmart parking lot on Main Street in Bishop and a number of churches – who have expressed no interest in hosting the project. Supervisor Pucci inquired as to whether IMACA has reached out to LADWP. Mr. Emerson said none of the LADWP properties they've investigated to date are appropriate, but he can request a meeting with LADWP for further discussion. Chairperson Griffiths said the County can't just throw all of the responsibility on Mr. Emerson, who has a very full plate already.

Supervisors Pucci and Roeser expressed frustration with the public perception that they are not doing anything, when in fact they have been looking for and receiving constituent feedback on possible alternate locations for the safe parking project. Supervisor Roeser said she does not know whether the suggestions she is funneling to IMACA have been vetted yet, and suggested a Board member be designated a point person on the issue to better communicate with both IMACA and the public. Supervisor Totheroh agreed that they need to take a comprehensive look at the homelessness issue, which the Coalition of Care does. He said there has been a failure to communicate to the public over the last four months and volunteered to be the point person, but said there should be weekly Board updates at the very least. He added that he hopes the safe parking project is not held captive to a committee looking at long-term solutions. Chairperson Griffiths reminded fellow Board members that the Coalition of Care meetings are open to the public, including members of the Board. Ms. Mann said the Board members can funnel ideas to her and she can work with Mr. Emerson and report back in a Department Head Report at meetings. CAO Quilter said Ms. Mann's suggestion would be OK in the short-term, but HHS is not the place to assign housing and affordable housing and in the long-term is not the best use of Ms. Mann's time.

After additional discussion, Chairperson Griffiths summarized the direction from the Board to staff: look at putting a person in charge of housing into the Administrative structure to coordinate affordable housing efforts and perhaps explore a regional effort to address homelessness; and direct ideas for safe parking sites to Ms. Mann, who will pass them on to the Coalition of Care for vetting. Supervisor Totheroh added that there should be a discussion at the Coalition of Care level about the best way to communicate with the public. CAO Quilter said it would be especially helpful if Mr. Emerson could come up with a list of requirements needed for a safe parking site so that when constituents call with an idea, they're not frustrated that it's not being pursued and Mr. Emerson won't have to spend time on locations that are infeasible.

Recess/Reconvene

The Chairperson recessed the meeting for a break at 2:18 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 2:43 p.m. with all Board members present.

*County Counsel –
Redistricting
Management/Reso #
2021-31*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve Resolution No. 2021-31, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, Regarding the Management of the 2021 Redistricting Process," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. The Board also provided feedback to Deputy County Counsel Grace Chuchla regarding the scheduling of mandatory public hearings and outreach to community groups. Motion carried unanimously.

*Risk – Disability of
Employee/Reso #
2021-32*

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve Resolution No. 2021-32, making a determination as required by Government Code Sections 21154 and 21156 concerning incapacity and disability of an employee. Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO-Personnel –
Dept. Head & BOS
Pay Adjustments/
Reso# 2021-33 &*

CAO Quilter reviewed for the Board the process to more equitably set pay rates for department heads, both elected and appointed, as well as the Board of Supervisors. He noted a subcommittee, which included Supervisors Pucci and Kingsley, was formed in 2019 but the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 put things on hold for about a year. Quilter reviewed in detail the

*Ordinances 1266,
1267*

methodology used to arrive at the proposed salary schedule, which he said is more accurate and equitable than the previous method of polling 15 like counties, which may or may not have the same positions and/or workloads. Supervisor Kingsley said the methodology and process developed over the last year or so will help future Boards as they set salaries. He said staff followed a simple but brilliant and transparent process that will also be helpful for anyone wanting to run for office. Supervisor Pucci commended staff and said they came up with an equitable solution. Supervisor Totheroh said that, as a data person, he likes the new methodology as it is simple and repeatable.

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve the Methodology and Implementation of the salary survey identified in the Agenda Request Form Summary. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve Resolution 2021-33, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Amending Resolution 2006-06 Changing Salary and/or Terms and Conditions of Employment for Appointed Officials Employed in the Several Offices or Institutions of the County of Inyo," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to waive the first reading of proposed Ordinance 1266 titled, "An Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Amending Section 2.88.040 of the Inyo County Code to Provide for Increases in the Salary for Certain Elected County Officials, Excluding Members of the Board of Supervisor," and set enactment for 11 a.m. June 15, 2021 in the Board of Supervisors Chamber, Independence. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to waive the first reading of proposed Ordinance 1267 titled, "An Ordinance of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, State of California Amending Section 2.04.040 (A) of the Inyo County Code to Provide for Increases in the Salary for Members of the Board of Supervisors," and set enactment for 11:15 a.m. June 15, 2021 in the Board of Supervisors Chamber, Independence. Before voting, Chairperson Griffiths noted he was uncomfortable voting to increase his own salary. Supervisor Roeser said she was uncomfortable as well, explaining that the rest of the Board has served for many years and done good work and deserved a raise but she hasn't served a year yet and would prefer to stay at her current salary until she has. Supervisor Kingsley said he doesn't feel uncomfortable at all – the Board members work hard and the proposed salary schedule was developed using the same methodology for the other elected and appointed positions. Moreover, he said, the County wants to attract quality candidates with the capacity to address the complicated and real issues that often come before the Board. County Counsel Rudolph noted for Supervisor Roeser's sake that there is a legal way to decline the additional salary without facing income tax issues. He said that could be discussed further next week. The Chairperson called for the vote. Motion carried 4-1, with Chairperson Griffiths voting no.

Item Pulled

The following item was pulled from the agenda:

22. **Clerk of the Board** - Request Board approve the minutes of the regular Board of Supervisors meeting of June 1, 2021.

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-waving" feature on Zoom.

*Board Member and
Staff Reports*

Supervisor Pucci said he has a Local Agency Formation Commission meeting tomorrow and additional meetings throughout the week.

Supervisor Roeser said she has had a number of person-to-person meetings; is working on scheduling town hall meetings in Big Pine, Wilkerson, and Independence; is pursuing an exciting project with Supervisor Kingsley through the Great American Outdoors Act; and had the opportunity to judge the California High School Rodeo Association queen contest.

CAO Quilter told the Board that technical interviews will be held for Clerk-Recorder applicants

this Thursday, and staff will be reaching out to the Board to schedule a special meeting for the public interviews.

County Counsel Rudolph said there will be logistical shuffling of departments in Bishop with the Consolidated Office Building move in progress, and his staff will be working from home for the time being to make room at May Street for the Grove Street HHS staff.

Chairperson Griffith reported attending a CSAC Executive Board meeting in person in San Diego, the Concert in the Rocks in Lone Pine, and Community Art Days in Bishop and Independence; and has LAFCo, IMACA, and Eastern Sierra Council of Government meetings the rest of the week.

Adjournment

Chairperson Griffiths adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 15, 2021 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