

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

December 14, 2021

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 10:01 a.m., on December 14, 2021, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present via webinar per California Assembly Bill 361: Chairperson Jeff Griffiths, presiding, Dan Totheroh, Rick Pucci, Jennifer Roeser, and Matt Kingsley. Also present: County Administrator Leslie Chapman, Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Ellis, and County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo.

Pledge of Allegiance Supervisor Pucci led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment The Chairperson asked for public comment on items not calendared on the agenda.

Supervisor Roeser thanked the Eastern California Museum for a great job hosting a book-signing recently, and community members who put the flags out last week.

Larry Levy of Tecopa said there are three residents willing to serve on the Tecopa Cemetery District Board, and thanked the County thus far for its efforts related to COVID and for continuing to follow the advice of the medical field.

Wes French of Bishop prayed for the Board.

County Department Reports

Public Works Director Mike Errante announced that Bishop Airport will welcome its first commercial flight on Sunday, out of Denver, followed by a ceremony at 2 p.m. He thanked all of the people in Public Works and Administration who worked so hard to get the County to this point.

Chief Probation Officer Jeff Thomson announced that Deputy Probation Officer Lisa Vetter has been named by the Chief Probation Officers of California the Central Region Employee of the Year, and Employee of the Year for the entire state.

Introductions

The following new Sheriff's Office employees were introduced to the Board: Dora Crespo Garcia, Cook: and Gabrielle Rinker, Public Safety Dispatcher.

COVID-19 Staff Update

HHS Director Marilyn Mann, HHS Deputy Director-Public Health & Prevention Anna Scott, and Public Health Officer Dr. James Richardson provided the Board with an update on COVID-19, including local case numbers, vaccinations, current hospitalizations, booster shots, and the omicron variant. Ms. Scott also shared a slide show with data showing local trends, noting one additional COVID death since last week. Ms. Mann reported on the State's universal masking order, and Dr. Richardson reiterated that individuals who are vaccinated are much less likely to be hospitalized if they contract COVID or any of its variants. He also said he doesn't understand the rationale of opposing masking because there is no scientific evidence whatsoever that it's harmful.

The Assistant Clerk of the Board read aloud a comment letter from Christina Arnal and oral comments were heard from Wes French, Cari Arnal, Lisa Johnston, Lynn Martin, and Sydney Quinn. Christina Arnal stated she opposed mandatory vaccinations in schools. French accused the Board of refusing to listen to warnings about bad data from the corrupt medical establishment and the failure of vaccines. Cari Arnal spoke about changes in medical care. Johnston wanted to know how data is collected from hospitals and what assurance there is of its accuracy. Ms. Martin said it seems obvious that masks work. Ms. Quinn thanked the County and Dr. Richardson for their efforts to keep the public safe.

<i>County Counsel – Christian Milovich Assistant County Counsel Contract</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Christian Milovich for provision of professional services as the Assistant County Counsel at a monthly salary of \$12,365, effective January 13, 2022, and authorize the County Administrator to sign. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Assessor – Erik Endler Contract Amendment 2</i>	Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve Amendment No. 2 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Erik Endler for the provision of professional services relating to the creation of a valuation model for purposes of training appraisal staff and the use in property tax assessments related to income-producing properties, specifically geothermal properties, to extend the end date from December 31, 2021 to June 30, 2022, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>CAO – Eva Wasef, MD Contract Amendment 1</i>	Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Eva S. Wasef, MD of Pasadena, CA, increasing the contract to an amount not to exceed \$125,000, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Emergency Services – Navigating Preparedness Contract Amendment 2</i>	Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve Amendment No. 2 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Navigating Preparedness Associates, LLC of Lafayette, CA extending the term end date from December 31, 2021 to June 30, 2022, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Emergency Services – EMPG Application/Reso # 2021-53</i>	Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to review the proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Program Application and, if deemed acceptable: A) approve the submittal of the Fiscal Year 2021 EMPG Program Application and authorize the County Administrator, as the designated Authorized Agent, to sign the grant application, as well as any and all accompanying documents, by approving the "Governing Body Resolution No. 2021-53," and B) authorize the Chairperson to sign the resolution addendum letter. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Information Services – Pitney Bowes Sole-Source Agreement</i>	Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to declare Pitney Bowes of Pittsburgh, PA a sole-source provider of postage processing machines and postage; B) approve the agreement between the County of Inyo and Pitney Bowes of Pittsburgh, PA for the provision of mail metering rental and service lease agreement in an amount not to exceed \$21,861.60 for the period of 60 months, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets; and C) authorize Senior Budget Analyst Denelle Carrington to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>County Counsel – AB 361 Findings</i>	Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to adopt findings pursuant to AB 361 that: A) the Board reconsidered the circumstances of the existing State of Emergency issued on March 4, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and B) local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing, and/or the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Public Works – United Airlines Use License Agreement</i>	Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve the Use License Agreement between the County of Inyo and United Airlines for a non-exclusive, nontransferable, fully revocable license for use of a portion of the Bishop Airport property, located at 703 Airport Road, Bishop, CA, for the period of December 19, 2021 to December 3, 2024, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Public Works – Corrected LSC Amendment 2</i>	Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to authorize a correction to Amendment No. 2 to the contract with LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc., of Tahoe City, CA, increasing the contract's not-to-exceed amount from \$159,742 to \$178,887, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*Sheriff – HSGP
Application/Reso #
2021-54*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to review the proposed Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Homeland Security Grant (HSGP) Application and, if deemed acceptable: A) approve the submittal of the application and authorize the County Administrator, as the designated Authorized Agent, to sign the grant application, as well as any and all accompanying documents, by approving the "Governing Board Resolution No. 2021-54;" and B) authorize the Chairperson to approve the resolution and sign the addendum letter. Motion carried unanimously.

Recess/Reconvene

The Chairperson recessed the meeting at 11 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 11:08 a.m. with all Board members present.

*County Counsel –
Redistricting
Hearing/Map
Approval*

Chairperson Griffiths opened and Deputy County Counsel Grace Chuchla introduced the last public hearing on the 2020 Census redistricting process in Inyo County. Ms. Chuchla reviewed for the Board the map options developed by staff and/or submitted by members of the public. She also offered a breakdown of the public comment received thus far. Ms. Chuchla noted the written public comments that were received but they were not read aloud.

The Chairperson opened the floor to public comment at 11:32 a.m. Lynne Greer said the process has been great and thanked staff for doing an amazing job despite geographical nightmares. Josh Nicholson thanked the Board for hearing the public and taking calls. He said the communication has been outstanding, and also thanked Mike Hay for his time assisting with the GIS mapping. The Chairperson closed the hearing at 11:37 a.m.

Discussion among staff and Board members ensued. Supervisor Roeser said she felt the need to make a plea for leaving the district boundaries where they are. Supervisor Kingsley said his desire to adhere to "One Person One Vote" mandates overruled his preference for no change. Planning Director Cathreen Richards reviewed for the Board the top 4 recommendations developed by staff: 1. Option 8a (though in light of new information they thought Map 1a should be the top choice); 2. Option 8b; 3. Option 3; and 4. Option 4. Richards said Maps 1a and 8a had the least amount of deviation and disruption. Board members discussed their favorites, some of which Ms. Chuchla explained will require certain finding to justify their selection if the deviation is too high (more than 10%) or they separate communities of interest.

Recess/Reconvene

The Chairperson recessed the meeting at 12:28 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 12:41 p.m. with all Board members present.

*County Counsel –
Redistricting
Hearing/Map
Approval
(Continued)*

The Chairperson reopened the public hearing. Mary Roper asked about the deviations of Option 8a and Option 7. The Chairperson closed the hearing again.

CAO Chapman polled the Board for their preferred options:
Supervisor Totheroh – 8a
Chairperson Griffiths – 3
Supervisor Pucci – 3
Supervisor Roeser – 4
Supervisor Kingsley – 4

With two supervisors each supporting Options 3 and 4, Chairperson Griffiths asked Supervisor Totheroh which of the two he would support. Supervisor Totheroh said he did not like either option, as they were disruptive, but would select Option 3 if he had to. He also noted that the deviation of Option 4 was very high at 9.7%. The Chairperson called for a motion.

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve Resolution No. 2021-56 titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, Setting the Boundaries of the Supervisorial Districts Following the 2020 Census," and authorize the Chairperson to sign, with Option 4 selected with the finding that it is within the 10% deviation threshold and does its best to keep multiple communities of interest together with the goal of equal representation. Motion carried 3-2, with Supervisors Totheroh and Griffiths voting no.

Recess/Reconvene

The Chairperson recessed the meeting at 12:59 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 1:16 p.m. with all Board members present.

BOE Recess/Reconvene The Chairperson recessed the Board of Supervisors meeting at 1:16 p.m. and convened a meeting of the Board of Equalization (separate minutes to be approved at the next BOE meeting). The Chair recessed the Board of Equalization meeting at 3:12 p.m. and reconvened the Board of Supervisors meeting with all Board members present.

Recess/Reconvene The Chairperson recessed the meeting at 3:12 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 3:21 p.m. with all Board members present.

Emergency Services – Fire Safe Council Workshop Emergency Services Manager Kelley Williams introduced a workshop with local Fire Safe Councils to discuss their recent letter to the Board requesting continued support in furthering fire safe policies, management and advocacy. Bill Michael of the Independence Fire Safe Council spoke on behalf of all Fire Safe Councils.

CAO – ARPA Presentation Postponed CAO Chapman and Senior Budget Analyst Denelle Carrington were scheduled to give a regarding the American Rescue Plan Act funds allocated to Inyo County and discuss potential uses of the funding. However, due to the late hour, the CAO recommended postponing the presentation until mid-January.

Public Works – Airport Parking Rates Ordinance Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to waive further reading of proposed Ordinance 1277 titled, "An Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Repealing Certain Portions of Ordinance No. 1167 (2011) and Setting Rates for Vehicle Parking at the Bishop Airport," and schedule enactment for Tuesday, December 21, 2021 in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, County Administrative Center, Independence.

Clerk of the Board – Tecopa Cemetery District Governing Board/Reso # 2021-55 Assistant Clerk of the Board Ellis explained that the proposed action is the first step in setting up a governing board for the Tecopa Cemetery District; the next steps include decreasing the number of district board seats from 5 to 3, appointing at least two residents to the board, and eventually turning control of the district over to a volunteer board. Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve Resolution No. 2021-55, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Inyo, State of California, Stating Its Intent to Become the Governing Board of the Tecopa Cemetery District," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment The Chairperson asked for public comment on items not calendared on the agenda.
The Assistant Clerk of the Board had not received additional written comment and nobody requested to speak to the Board via the "hand-raising" feature on Zoom.

Board Member and Staff Reports Supervisor Kingsley reported attended an RCRC meeting last week in Merced.
Supervisor Roeser said she attended the Owens Valley Groundwater Association meeting last week and assisted with Shop with a Cop on Saturday.
Chairperson Griffiths reported attending meetings of the Bishop City Council, Eastern Sierra Transportation Authority, Eastern Sierra Council of Governments, and Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative.

Adjournment Chairperson Griffiths adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m., to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, December 21, 2021 in the County Administrative Center in Independence.

Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

*Attest: LESLIE L. CHAPMAN
Clerk of the Board*

*by: _____
Darcy Ellis, Assistant*