

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

June 2, 2017

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in special session at the hour of 3:02 p.m. on June 2, 2017, at the Bishop Branch of the Inyo County Free Library, 210 Academy Ave., Bishop, with the following Supervisors present: Vice Chairperson Dan Totheroh, presiding, Rick Pucci, Jeff Griffiths and Matt Kingsley. Absent: Chairperson Mark Tillemans.

PUBLIC COMMENT Vice Chairperson Totheroh asked for public comment and there was none.

PLEDGE Supervisor Kingsley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD REMARKS – LIBRARY AUTOMATION PROJECT COMPLETION Supervisor Griffiths spoke on both the importance of libraries throughout history, and to the community now, as well as the future of libraries, which he called a center of research and knowledge and a connection between people and the outside world. He thanked Betty Sisson of the Friends of the Lone Pine Library for her support of the project and the Friends of the Bishop Library, who were the driving force of the automation project. He said with the completion of Inyo's project, all 58 counties in California now have automated library systems. Griffiths thanked all the volunteers and staff who worked on the project, as well as the library patrons who were inconvenienced during the project by closures and scheduling changes.

STAFF-VOLUNTEERS-PUBLIC REMARKS – LIBRARY AUTOMATION PROJECT COMPLETION A member of the public who did not identify himself told the Board he travels from Mammoth to use the Bishop Library because he likes the ambience better. He also spoke about not being able to use the branch the last several times he visited because it was closed, as was the one in Lone Pine. He said he ended up at the Law Library in Independence. He also expressed concerns about the skeleton crews at the local branches and the need to keep them open and staffed for people who need to take exams. Supervisor Totheroh said he had a similar experience with coming into town to use the Bishop library only to find it closed. Supervisor Kingsley said he understood the gentleman's frustration but pointed out that Inyo County maintains six separate branches in a commitment to its library system and users. He added that the Lone Pine branch is open five days a week, which is more than some big-city branches. Betty Sisson of the Friends of the Lone Pine Library said she was pleased to say the Lone Pine branch closures were kept to a minimum during the automation work and that, in general, Lone Pine is very pleased with its library. She said there are many regulars who come in every day to get caught up on the newspapers and use the computers, and who appreciate having such a great library and the County's support. Yvonne Wood of Bishop said she is on a mission to visit every branch of the Inyo County Library and was amazed to see how many people visited the Death Valley branch when she was there. Inyo County Librarian Nancy Masters read from a prepared speech (attached) in which she talked about the critical role libraries play in preserving and protecting history, and in educating and spreading knowledge to people of all walks of life. She recognized all the librarians and staff members who have been involved in the project over the years, and thanked the Board of Supervisors for funding the libraries and recognizing the importance of libraries; the Friends of the Bishop Library for significant funding for the project; the Big Pine and Lone Pine Friends groups for support; and all of the library system's fine patrons who stuck by them. Rick Delmas of Friends of the Bishop Library thanked the Board of Supervisors for matching the group's funding for the automation project and said he hoped the Board continued to support the libraries with appropriate staff. Supervisor Griffiths told Masters that he knows the automation process has sucked up a lot of her staff's time and energy and he would encourage her to take advantage of volunteer aid whenever possible. CAO Carunchio congratulated staff, the Board, the community, and library patrons on the finished automated system. He noted he loves accomplishments in government, and while the automation project took 12 years to complete, it is a major accomplishment to be proud of. He said sometimes you need to contract in order to step forward and today the County was taking a step forward. He credited Masters with stepping up and implementing the

necessary grants to get the project moving at a time when staff division had the project stalled. City Councilwoman Pat Gardner said the City also heard from unhappy patrons when the library was closed, which speaks to how much they appreciate the library. She said the County library is necessary and vital, and the project completion is an awesome accomplishment. Supervisor Pucci encouraged library supporters to keep their voices raised, as libraries can sometimes go overlooked. Supervisor Totheroh then did the honors of cutting a "ribbon" made out of rolls of extra barcodes to commemorate the completion of the automation project.

**CLOSING REMARKS
ON LIBRARY
AUTOMATION
PROJECT
COMPLETION**

CAO Carunchio, Assistant CAO Rick Benson, and Supervisors Griffiths, Kingsley, Pucci and Totheroh were each handed brand-new library cards for the new automated system. Librarian Nancy Masters pointed out the slogan on the new cards, "Six Branches, One System," and said books and e-books not found at a particular branch can always be requested.

ADJOURN

Vice Chairperson Totheroh adjourned the meeting at 3:42 p.m. to the 8:30 a.m. regular session on June 6, 2017 in the County Administrative Center in Independence.

Vice Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

*Attest: KEVIN D. CARUNCHIO
Clerk of the Board*

by: _____
Darcy Ellis, Assistant