

MINUTES



County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

January 12, 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 January 12, 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.

The Assistant Clerk of the Board said she had received none as of right then, and nobody requested to speak via Zoom.

Closed Session

Chairperson Griffiths recessed open session at 8:31 a.m. to convene in closed session with all Board members present to discuss the following item(s): **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 **PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: Veterans Service Officer; and 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 – 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 Griffiths recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:13 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.

Jen McGuire, Tri-County Fair CEO, reported that the Eastern Sierra Tri-County Fairgrounds had won the Western Fair Association's prestigious Merrill Award, based on its creativity, marketing, vision, and leadership, and its summertime drive-in movies and concerts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Elaine Kabala introduced herself as the newly appointed staff for Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and said she is available to answer any questions or hear any concerns from Board members.

*Employee
Service
Recognition
- 2020 4th
Quarter*

The Board of Supervisors recognized the following employees for reaching service milestones during the Fourth Quarter of 2020:

- Auditor-Controller: Shiela Ward, 5 years; Amy Shepherd, 20 years
- County Counsel: Marshall Rudolph, 5 years; John-Carl Vallejo, 5 years
- Assessor: Allison Krohn, 15 years
- Sheriff's Office: Frank Landaverde-Calles, 15 years; Sarah Daughtry, 10 years; Donald Barrett, 10 years; and Kristin Mullen, 5 years
- Assistant County Administrator: Logan Wilcox, 5 years
- Health & Human Services: Stephanie Tanksley, 5 years; Peter Charley, 5 years; and Joshua Vega, 5 years
- Public Works: Steve Ivey, 20 years; and John Conyngham, 10 years
- District Attorney: Dana Crom, 10 years
- Administration: Kelley Williams, 20 years; and Denelle Carrington, 20 years

*County Department
Reports*

Chief Probation Officer Jeff Thomsen updated the Board on state budget issues related to probation services.

Ag Commissioner Nate Reade announced he just received another load of PPE for individuals in ag production. He also updated the Board on state budget issues related to agriculture.

*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. Staff also updated the Board on the distribution on vaccines and ongoing testing. HHS Director Marilyn Mann said Inyo County was at 854 cases as of last night. She stressed the importance of recognizing that 550 of those cases were diagnosed in less than two months, and that Inyo County is at 27 deaths total. She said the county is still feeling the impacts from holiday gatherings and staff has been busy doing time-consuming contract tracing. Deputy HHS Director-Public Health Anna Scott noted that the County is operating under the assumption that it will receive the required second dose of vaccines and is not holding any back supply of the first dose. Public Health Director Dr. Richard Johnson said he is encouraged by the vaccine roll-out so far and said the County needs to keep moving ahead to the stage where those 65 and older are vaccinated, since that age group is where the most deaths have occurred.

David Blacker of the Death Valley Natural History Association thanked staff for the updates, but suggested better definitions for industries and what businesses belong to those industries. He sought clarification on vaccines, and added that he hoped the County would utilize the chambers of commerce in distributing information.

Assistant County Administrator Leslie Chapman provided an update on the Community Resiliency Grant program for non-profit entities, noting a public online workshop would be held tomorrow on the subject. She also provided a demonstration of how to access important information on the County website.

*HHS-
Health/Prevention –
Prevention Specialist*

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) Prevention Specialist exists in non-General Fund budgets, 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; C) approve the hiring of one (1) Prevention Specialist at Range 60 (\$3,758 - \$4,564); and D) if an internal candidate is hired as a result of the open recruitment, authorize HHS to backfill the resulting vacancy. Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS-Social Services
– Social Worker III-IV*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci 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) Social Worker III or IV exists in the non-General Fund Social Services 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 as a State Merit System position, an open recruitment is more appropriate to ensure qualified applicants apply; and C) approve the hiring of one (1) Social Worker, either a III at Range 70 (\$4,753 - \$5,781), or a IV at Range 73 (\$5,098 - \$6,201), contingent upon qualifications; and D) if an internal candidate is

hired into the Social Worker III or IV position, authorize HHS to backfill any resulting vacancy. Motion carried unanimously.

*Ag Commissioner-
Cannabis –
Ordinance 1262
(Business Licenses)*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to enact Ordinance 1262, titled, "An Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, Amending Sections 5.40.090, 5.40.100, and 5.40.150 of the Inyo County Code, Pertaining to Commercial Cannabis Business Licenses." Motion carried unanimously.

*Ag-ESWMA- 2021
Ford Truck Purchase*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to: A) declare Bishop Ford of Bishop, CA the successful bidder for a 2021 Ford F350 truck per Bid No. 112020; and B) authorize the purchase of one (1) 2021 Ford F350 truck from Bishop Ford in an amount not to exceed \$38,464.71. Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO – COVID-19
Prevention Program*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve the proposed "Inyo County COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP)," which will be added to the County of Inyo Administrative Procedure and Policy Manual. Motion carried unanimously.

*CAO – Prior Year
Public Defender
Invoice*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to authorize payment of a prior-year invoice in the amount of \$2,000 from the Public Defender budget to Pierce Fire Investigation for services of an explosive's expert. Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS-Behavioral
Health – DHCS
Amendment*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve the amendment to the performance contract between the County of Inyo and the State of California's Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) for the provision of county behavioral health services for the three-year period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021 and designate the HHS Deputy Director of Behavioral Health, in her role as the County Mental Health Director, to sign both copies of each contract as well as complete the Certification Clause. Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS-First 5 – MCAH
CHVP Agreement*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve the Maternal Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) California Home Visiting Project (CHVP) State General Fund Innovation Agreement No. CHVP SGF INV 20-14 between the County of Inyo and California Department of Public Health for the provision of Home Visiting services in an amount not to exceed \$90,115 annually upon execution and expiring June 30, 2023, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the MCAH Director and HHS Director to sign the Agreement Funding Application forms Agency Information Form and Attestation of Compliance. Motion carried unanimously.

*Treasurer-Tax
Collector – 2021
Statement of
Investment Policy*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve the 2021 Statement of Investment Policy. Motion carried unanimously.

*Treasurer-Tax
Collector –
Investment
Authority/Reso
#2021-09*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve Resolution No. 2021-09, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of Inyo County Delegating to the County Treasurer Its Investment Authority Pursuant to Section 53607 of the California Government Code," and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*BOS-Chairperson –
2021 Committee
Assignments*

Chairperson Griffiths shared his 2021 committee assignment nominations with the rest of the Board, first suggesting they have a conversation about certain committees that have not met in years and/or appear inactive. The Board reviewed the status of committees and alternate positions highlighted by the Chairperson. Supervisor Roeser provided input on several, asking for the opportunity to do more research before they were removed from the Board's list of assignments. She also noted she wanted to look into the development of a Veterans Service Committee. Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve the 2021 committee assignments as presented by the Chair, with the exception of the boards and commissions for Eastern Sierra Transit Authority, Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District, and the Local Agency Formation Commission – and with the following changes agreed on by the Board:

- Removing the "pending status" linked to the Behavioral Health Advisory Board

- alternate and recognizing it as an official position;
- Removing the Central Valley Water Authority, Children’s Services Council, Community Focused Court Planning Team, and the Internal Operations Committee from the Board’s list of annual assignments; and
- Directing County Counsel to facilitate the addition of an alternate position to the Eastern Sierra Area Agency on Aging.

Motion carried unanimously.

For the purposes of Form 806 reporting, separate motions were made for the ESTA, GBUAPCD, and LAFCo assignments:

- Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to approve the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority Board of Directors assignments as presented by the Chair. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District Board assignments as presented by the Chair. Motion carried unanimously.
- Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve the Local Agency Formation Commissions assignments as presented by the Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

*Sheriff –
Administrative
Hearing
Procedure/Reso #
2021-10*

Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve Resolution No. 2021-10, titled, "A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, Establishing an Administrative Hearing Procedure Regarding the Declaration of a Dog as Potentially Dangerous or Vicious," and authorize the Chairperson to sign Motion carried unanimously.

*Water Dept. – OVGA
Rep Direction*

Water Director Dr. Aaron Steinwand sought direction from the Board to the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority representatives in advance of the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting scheduled for January 14, 2020. He said Mono County voted in December to remain a member through the completion of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. He reviewed what he called a relative short agenda that included an update from the consultant and one action item: a change to the OVGA bylaws to move the election of Chair and Vice Chair from December to sometime before March. Supervisor Totheroh, the Board’s OVGA representative, said the critical task of the OVGA in the near future will be defining water and management levels throughout the basin.

*HHS – Chatterbox
Sole-Source Contract*

Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Roeser to declare Chatterbox, LLC of Bishop, CA a sole-source provider of Bilingual Training and Support Services; B) ratify and approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Chatterbox, LLC of Bishop, CA for the provision of Bilingual Training and Support in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 for the period of January 1, 2021 through Dec 31, 2021, contingent upon the Board’s approval of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget; and C) authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

*Clerk of the Board –
Approval of Minutes*

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve the minutes of the regular Board of Supervisors meeting of December 8, 2020 and December 15, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

The Chairperson solicited public comment for the final public comment period. No additional comments had been emailed and nobody requested to speak to the Board via the “hand-waving” feature on Zoom.

*Board Member and
Staff Reports*

Supervisor Roeser reported meeting with numerous county department heads and staff, who have been very helpful.

Supervisor Pucci said he has been fielding a lot of calls about the COVID-19 vaccines and urged staff to keep the information being distributed as clear as possible.

Supervisor Kingsley said he had a Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District meeting last Thursday, and he and Supervisor Pucci have a phone meeting this afternoon on the BLM’s Alabama Hills management plan.

Supervisor Totheroh said he also had a GBUAPCD meeting last week, and will have an OVGA meeting Thursday, a County Service Area No. 2 meeting in the morning, and two webinars with the State on Friday for individuals involved with Behavioral Health committees.

Chairperson Griffiths reported attending the Bishop City Council last night, and will be attending the virtual installation of officers for RCRC tomorrow, and a CSAC Executive Board meeting Thursday.

Supervisor Pucci added that Tom LaBonge, former Los Angeles City Council member, recently passed away.

Adjournment

Chairperson Griffiths adjourned the meeting at 1:32 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 19, 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