

# MINUTES



# County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

## August 4, 2020

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 9:01 a.m., on August 4, 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 Totheroh, Jeff Griffiths, Rick Pucci, and Mark Tillemans. Also present: County Administrative Officer Clint Quilter, Assistant Clerk of the Board Darcy Ellis, and County Counsel Marshall Rudolph.

*Public Comment* Chairperson Kingsley asked the Assistant Clerk of the Board whether there was any public comment emailed for today's meeting for items not calendared on the agenda.

The Assistant Clerk of the Board said none had been submitted, and nobody requested to speak to the Board via the "hand-waving" feature on Zoom.

*Closed Session* Chairperson Kingsley recessed open session at 9:01 a.m. to convene in closed session with all Board members to discuss the following item(s): No. 2 **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION** – *Los Angeles Department of Water and Power v. County of Inyo et al*, Court of Appeal Case No. F081389, Kern Superior Court Case No. BCV-18-101513-KCT (CEQA).

*Open Session* Chairperson Kingsley recessed closed session and reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:01 a.m. with all Board members present.

*Pledge of Allegiance* Chairperson Kingsley 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 Kingsley asked if there was any public comment pending for items not calendared on the agenda.

The Assistant Clerk of the Board said none had been submitted, and nobody requested to speak to the Board via the "hand-waving" feature on Zoom.

*County Department Reports* The Chairperson opened the floor to reports from departments and there was no-one wishing to address the Board.

*COVID-19 Staff Update* Assistant HHS Director Meaghan McCamman reported on the spike in COVID cases, noting that a lot of them can be traced back to gatherings at home and travel to and out of the county – which she said holds true statewide.

Public Health Officer Dr. James Richardson provided the current COVID-19 statistics for Inyo County. He said 15 of the 20 new cases can be traced to Bishop Care Center where the California Department of Public Health has stepped in to assist with the outbreak (the other 5 cases were unrelated). He said new cases are attributable to increased movement and residents not taking the pandemic seriously. He said all it takes is one case to cause multiple transmissions and a spike in cases. Dr. Richardson noted that three cases have been hospitalized – two in critical condition were released for comfort and care only – and it's doubtful whether those two would survive.

HHS Deputy Director-Public Health Anna Scott reviewed for the Board the metrics that were established to avoid state intervention and where Inyo County is failing to meet those metrics.

She said 26 cases over the past two weeks and five unrelated cases puts Inyo County over the acceptable numbers for those metrics. She said the County could go on the State's monitoring list this week and if it stays there for three consecutive days, additional services and industries will have to shut down and schools will be affected. Ms. McCamman added that Inyo County ending up on the list is likely, and she encouraged businesses to start engaging now in the County of Inyo's expedited encroachment permit process for outdoor operations.

Supervisor Griffiths, acknowledging that staff has an FAQ and guidance regarding gatherings in the works, asked what that guidance would be. Dr. Richardson said that, while gatherings are still prohibited at the State level, it is ultimately a personal decision whether people decide to get together with friends, but he wouldn't advise it unless you are sure of everyone's health status and where they have been. He said the best advice is to avoid all gatherings outside of those with close family units. Ms. McCamman added that while gatherings are not advised, if people do decide to get together, it should be outside with social distancing and masking.

Chairperson Kingsley asked whether the turnaround time on testing has improved. Dr. Richardson said tests taken at the hospital are coming back in 2-3 days, and Ms. Scott noted that Verily's results are taking 2-3 weeks – too long to be useful from a personal or public health perspective – but efforts were under way to improve on that.

Assistant County Administrator Leslie Chapman said it's been status quo with regard to non-compliance complaints. She said the County will be receiving CARES Act funding and is looking at options for spending it, including reimbursement of County expenses, child care assistance and possibly business grants. Ms. McCamman added that staff has two notices of non-compliance ready to go out to businesses today.

The Chairperson solicited public comment. The Assistant Clerk of the Board read aloud a letter from Tamara Cohn, asking three questions that were already addressed during the staff update.

*Clerk-Recorder –  
Annual DFM  
Payment*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve payment to DFM Associates in an amount not to exceed \$14,700.40 for the annual DFM Associates Software License Maintenance and Support Fee, contingent upon the Board's adoption of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

*Risk – AED Bid  
Award and Purchase*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to declare Heartsmart of New Milford, CT, the successful bidder for 20 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and related equipment (15 wall cabinets, 1 trainer unit, and 5 travel cases) per Bid No. 2020-02; and B) authorize the purchase of up to 20 AEDs and related equipment (15 wall cabinets, 1 trainer unit, and 5 travel cases) from Heartsmart of New Milford, CT, in an amount not to exceed \$24,833.26. Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS-First 5 –  
NIH Contract  
Amendment 1*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract between the County of Inyo and Northern Inyo Hospital, modifying the Schedule of Fees budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*Planning – Alabama  
Hills EA  
Presentation/Letter*

Planning Director Cathreen Richards presented for Board approval a proposed comment letter in response to the BLM's Environmental Assessment for the Alabama Hills Management Plan. She provided some background on the plan, and reviewed for the Board the EA's three alternatives. Richards also reviewed the comment letter in support of Alternative 1, with some enhancements. Supervisor Tothoroh said he had initially been concerned about Alternative 1 but is on board after reading staff's comment letter. Supervisor Griffiths asked for clarification about the suggestion involving siting of a developed campground. Chairperson Kingsley explained that he requested the language's addition in order to offer a better location for the proposed campground - an area south of what is known as Locus Grove or Frog Pond because it is closer to Movie Flats and vehicles can use Whitney Portal (a paved road) to access it. Chairperson Kingsley requested the portion of the letter supporting the addition of five restrooms be changed to indicate that the County supports consideration of five locals and up to three restrooms. Moved by Supervisor Kingsley and seconded by Supervisor Tothoroh to approve, with the number of restrooms reduced from five to three, a comment letter regarding the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Alabama Hills Management Plan Environmental Assessment (EA) and authorize the Chairperson to sign and direct staff to submit the comment

letter. Motion carried unanimously.

*Information Services  
– Microsoft  
Enterprise Enrollment  
Agreement*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to ratify and approve the Enterprise Enrollment Agreement between the County of Inyo and Microsoft of Redmond, WA, through their licensing solutions partner Dell, Inc. of Round Rock, TX, for the provision of Microsoft product subscription services in an amount not to exceed \$465,000 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023 (\$155,000 per year for 3 years), contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the Information Services Director to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

*Information Services  
– Granite  
Communications  
Service Agreement*

Moved by Supervisor Totheroh and seconded by Supervisor Tillemans to waive competitive bidding and then ratify and approve the Service Agreement between the County of Inyo and Granite Communications of Quincy, MA, under the California Multiple Award Schedule No. 3-19-70-3749A, for the provision of SIP Trunk telecommunications and long-distance services in an amount not to exceed \$91,440 plus long distance charges, paid monthly at \$2,940 plus long distance charges, for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets, and authorize the Information Services Director or the Deputy Information Services Director to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

*Personnel – Jerry  
Oser Deputy EH  
Director*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Pucci to approve the personal services contract with Jerry Oser as the Deputy Environmental Health Director, at \$7,677 per month effective August 6, 2020, and authorize the County Administrator to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*Clerk of the Board –  
Approval of Minutes*

Moved by Supervisor Griffiths and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to approve the minutes of the regular Board of Supervisors meeting of July 28, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Comment*

The Chairperson solicited public comment for the final public comment period.

The Assistant Clerk of the Board said none had been submitted, and nobody requested to speak to the Board via the "hand-waving" feature on Zoom.

*Board Member and  
Staff Reports*

Supervisor Totheroh said he and Supervisor Griffiths attended an Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership meeting yesterday where there was much discussion about the massive influx of visitors to public lands and their impacts on the environment.

Supervisor Griffiths added that, from his personal observations and reports from constituents, public lands are a mess right now with people thinking they're in the middle of nowhere and can do whatever they want. He also reported participating in several CSAC committee meetings about the propositions for November's ballot and whether CSAC should take a position on any of them.

CAO Quilter noted that he took some rare time off last week and thanked the Assistant Clerk of the Board, Assistant CAO Leslie Chapman, Deputy Personnel Director Sue Dishion, and Sr. Budget Analyst Denelle Carrington for taking care of matters in his absence and reducing the amount of interruptions on his break.

Chairperson Kingsley said, with regard to the issue of visitors misbehaving, that now is a prime example of why Inyo County needs to continue to diversify its economy.

*Adjournment*

Chairperson Kingsley adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, August 11, 2020 in the County Administrative Center in Independence.

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Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

*Attest: CLINT G. QUILTER  
Clerk of the Board*

*by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Darcy Ellis, Assistant*