

# MINUTES



# County of Inyo Board of Supervisors

## November 2, 2021

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in regular session at the hour of 9:03 a.m., on November 2, 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 Tothoroh, 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.

- Public Comment* The Chairperson asked for public comment on items not calendared on the agenda.
- The Assistant Clerk of the Board had not received any written comment and nobody requested to speak to the Board via the “hand-raising” feature on Zoom.
- Closed Session* Chairperson Griffiths recessed open session at 9:04 a.m. to convene in closed session with all Board members present to discuss the following item(s): No. 2 **PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT – Pursuant to Government Code §54957** – Title: County Counsel.
- 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 Roeser led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Report on Closed Session* County Counsel Vallejo reported that no action was taken in closed session that is required to be reported.
- Public Comment* Chairperson Griffiths asked for public comment on items not calendared on the agenda.
- Supervisor Kingsley noted for the public that new County Counsel John-Carl Vallejo is joining the meeting today.
- Chairperson Griffiths acknowledged the terrible loss suffered by the community when three young women lost their lives in a vehicle collision late last week.
- Wes French of Bishop prayed for the Board.
- Cari Arnal asked the Board to hold town hall meetings about masks and COVID-19 vaccines.
- Lynette McIntosh compared vaccine mandates to the actions of Hitler’s regime and other crimes against humanity.
- Introductions* The following new HHS employees were introduced to the Board: Lexey Dennison, Office Clerk III, Micaela Muro, Prevention Specialist, Nicole Spaulding, Social Services Aide, and Taylor Hartshorn, Administrative Secretary II.
- CAO – RCRC Presentation* The Board received a presentation from Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) President Patrick Blacklock and Chief Economic Development Officer Barbara Hayes on the organization and its affiliates, as well as short-, mid-, and long-term broadband options.
- Information Services – Broadband Task Force Update* The Board heard an update from Information Services Director Scott Armstrong on Inyo County’s Broadband Task Force activities to date.

*County Counsel –  
Redistricting  
Hearing*

Chairperson Griffiths opened and Deputy County Counsel Grace Chuchla introduced the fourth of several public hearings on the 2020 Census redistricting process in Inyo County. Ms. Chuchla and Planning Director Cathreen Richards reviewed for the Board and public the Census numbers, redistricting requirements and ideal goals, factors to consider in redrawing district lines, and draft maps. They stressed that staff encouraged feedback and ideas from the public.

Public comment came from Josh Nicholson of Bishop who is working on a redistricting map. He said he is trying to keep it simple, and encouraged members of the public to watch the online tutorials that show how to create maps. The Assistant Clerk of the Board read aloud comment letters from Rhonda Erickson, opposed to redistricting; Leslie Sasuga, suggesting the Board keep the supervisorial districts as they are now; and Elaine Reckling, asking the Board to consider not changing the districts because COVID-19 likely impacted the Census results.

The public hearing was closed.

*Presentation – Most  
Improved in Safety  
Award*

Risk Manager Aaron Holmberg presented the annual safety award for "Most Improved in Safety" to the Eastern California Museum.

*County Counsel –  
AB 361 Findings*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley 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.

*Emergency  
Services/Public  
Works – Caterpillar  
Forklift P.O.*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to: A) declare Quinn Lift of Bakersfield, CA as the successful bidder for a Caterpillar forklift per Bid No. SW 21-1021; and B) authorize a purchase order for an amount not to exceed \$34,179 for the purchase of a Caterpillar brand forklift from Quinn Lift of Bakersfield, CA. Motion carried unanimously.

*Information Services  
– CivicPlus  
Agreement Renewal*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve the renewal of a Software Maintenance Agreement between CivicPlus, Inc. and the County of Inyo for the County's Board meeting streaming and agenda automation system for the period of December 1, 2021 through November 30, 2022, in an amount not to exceed \$11,779.99. Motion carried unanimously.

*Information Services  
– CBC Sole-Source  
Agreement (Lone  
Pine)*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to: A) declare the California Broadband Cooperative (CBC) of Bishop, CA, the sole-source provider of ELAN network services; B) approve the service agreement between the County of Inyo and the CBC of Bishop, CA for the provision of moving the existing ELAN connection from 380 North Mount Whitney Drive in Lone Pine to 310 North Jackson Street in Lone Pine in an amount not to exceed \$18,560.40 for the project, and of continuing the ELAN services for five years in an amount not to exceed \$5,040 beginning at the completion of circuit activation, contingent upon the Board's approval of future budgets; and C) authorize the Board Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS-Behavioral  
Health – Baker &  
Hostetler Payment*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve payment of \$14,754.00 to Baker & Hostetler, LLP for professional services rendered. Motion carried unanimously.

*HHS-Fiscal – CDA  
Agreement  
Amendment 1*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to ratify and approve Amendment No. 1 to Standard Agreement for Contract Number AP-2122-16, between the County of Inyo and the California Department of Aging (CDA), increasing the overall allocation by \$242,045, for a total contract amount of \$1,375,686, and authorize the HHS Director to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Works – Titan*

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve the five-year

<i>Aviation Contract</i>	contract between the County of Inyo and Titan Aviation Fuels of New Bern, NC for the provision of aviation fuel supply for the period of January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2026, and authorize the Chairperson to sign. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Public Works- Recycling &amp; Waste Management – Gregg Drilling Contract</i>	Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to approve the contract between the County of Inyo and Gregg Drilling, LLC of Signal Hill, CA for the provision of Groundwater Monitoring Well Installation Project in an amount not to exceed \$57,386 for the period of November 15, 2021 through June 30, 2022, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, contingent upon all appropriate signatures being obtained. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>BOS – RCRC, GSFA, GSCA Delegates</i>	Moved by Supervisor Roeser and seconded by Supervisor Totheroh to confirm Supervisor Kingsley as a delegate and Supervisor Pucci an alternate to serve on the boards of directors for the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA), and the Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA). Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Water Department – Standing Committee Reps Direction</i>	Water Director Dr. Aaron Steinwand sought direction to the County's Standing Committee representatives in advance of the meeting of the Inyo County/Los Angeles Standing Committee scheduled for November 3, 2021. He reviewed the agenda, noting a single action item – to approve documentation from the May 26, 2021 meeting.
<i>Public Works-Town Water Systems – Proposed Lien Ordinance</i>	Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Kingsley to waive further reading of the proposed ordinance titled, "An Ordinance of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, Adding Section 4.12.090 to the Inyo County Code Regarding Liens for Delinquent Water Bills," and schedule enactment for November 9, 2021 in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, County Administrative Center, Independence. Motion carried unanimously.
<i>Board Member and Staff Reports</i>	<p>Supervisor Totheroh cited an upcoming Tribal Consultation meeting with the Bishop Tribe.</p> <p>Supervisor Pucci said he attended the Northern Inyo Airport Advisory Committee meeting last night and has a Tribal Consultation meeting Thursday with Supervisor Totheroh and the Bishop Tribe.</p> <p>Supervisor Roeser said she is hosting redistricting town halls on Nov. 10-11, and also attended a NACo Public Lands Committee meeting.</p> <p>Supervisor Kingsley said he attended the Southern Inyo Airport Advisory Committee meeting, went on a tour of mines with Ryan Standridge of the Planning Department, and will attend this weekend's Firehouse Fling in Tecopa.</p> <p>Chairperson Griffiths reported on an Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership meeting.</p>
<i>Recess/Reconvene</i>	The Chairperson recessed the meeting at 12:18 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 1:02 p.m. with all Board members present.
<i>COVID-19 Staff Update</i>	<p>HHS Director Marilyn Mann, HHS Deputy Director-Public Health &amp; 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, and upcoming availability of booster shots. Ms. Scott also shared a slide show with data showing local trends, noting that Inyo County's case rate is on a slight decline but it is still the highest case rate in the state, and that data show those who are vaccinated are far less likely to get infected, be hospitalized, and die.</p> <p>CAO Chapman took a moment to clarify that while some members of the public have indicated it's the Board option to comply with health orders, those orders carry the full force of the law. She said they are never something the County takes lightly and are based on a deep examination of data and risk assessment regarding hospital capacity. She said once a masking mandate has been put in place, it is the Board's and every citizen's duty to comply. She said the County is monitoring case rates and other data to determine when to lift the order.</p>

Public comment came from Kristin Ostly, Wayne Croasdale, Pastor Kelly Larson, Cari Arnal, Josh Nicholson, Lynette McIntosh, someone identifying as "Todd," and Wes French, who all spoke in opposition to mask and vaccine mandates, government corruption, and tyranny, and cited a global conspiracy involving the WHO, CDC, FDA, and Big Pharma to experiment on the unsuspecting American people similar to what occurred in Nazi Germany.

Deborah Morales also commented, once again expressing thanks to the Board and staff for their work. She said she feels safer with the masking mandate when people abide by it.

*Adjournment*

Chairperson Griffiths adjourned the meeting at 2:11 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, November 9, 2021 in the County Administrative Center in Independence.

---

Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

*Attest: LESLIE CHAPMAN  
Clerk of the Board*

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