



**MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF MONO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Regular Meetings: The First, Second, and Third Tuesday of each month. Location of meeting is specified just below.
Teleconference Only - No Physical Location

**Regular Meeting
September 1, 2020**

9:00 AM Meeting Called to Order by Chair Corless.

Supervisors Present: Corless, Gardner, Kreitz, Peters, and Stump (all attended via teleconference).

Supervisors Absent: None.

All votes were conducted by roll call.

The Mono County Board of Supervisors stream most of their meetings live on the internet and archives them afterward. To search for a meeting from June 2, 2015 forward, please go to the following link: <http://www.monocounty.ca.gov/meetings>.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Stump.

Supervisor Corless:

- Adjourn in memory of Tom Berryhill, who represented Mono County and Eastern Sierra in the California State Senate, most recently a member of Stanislaus Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Kreitz:

- Adjourn in memory of Laura Kreitz, Supervisor Kreitz's sister in law.

Supervisor Gardner:

- "To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart."
- Eleanor Roosevelt

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Katie Maloney Bellomo

- Addressed procedural issue of the field trip to North Mono Basin

Technical difficulties

Break: 9:23 AM

Reconvened: 9:29 AM

2. RECOGNITIONS

A. Recognition of Raymond Gaffney

Departments: Social Services

(Kathy Peterson and Michelle Raust) - Recognition of Raymond Gaffney, Social Worker IV, for completing a Master of Social Work degree through the Title IVE Program.

Action: None.

Kathy Peterson, Social Services Director:

- Recognized Raymond Gaffney for his academic achievement and commitment to serving families in Mono County

Michelle Raust, Child and Adult Services Program Manager:

- Reviewed Raymond's achievements

Raymond Gaffney, Social Worker IV:

- Appreciate recognition
- Thanked County for support

3. COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

CAO Report regarding Board Assignments

Bob Lawton, CAO:

- Attended meetings of the Economic Recovery Branch
- Visited with external auditors, thanked Finance Director Dutcher for her staff's support of the audit process
- Several COVID community meetings, business round table
- Statewide conference calls with County Administrators Association
- Public Agency Retirement System review
- Enforcement team meetings
- COVID finance meeting

4. DEPARTMENT/COMMISSION REPORTS

Chris Mokracek, EMS Chief:

- Slink Fire update – caused by lightning strike
- Evacuation of Walker and Coleville
- Estimated at 12,000 acres this morning
- Highway 395 still closed from the mouth of the canyon to Holbrook Junction
- Minor injuries, no residential structures lost
- Concerns about historical sites
- Coordinated with Social Services, Antelope Valley CERT, and Sheriff's Department
- Mono County sent a taskforce last night from fire districts throughout the County and supplemented existing resources from Mono County, Inyo County, and Northern Nevada

Kathy Peterson, Social Services Director:

- Slink Fire update – opened a temporary evacuation point in coordination with Sheriff's office at Topaz Lodge

- Work with Red Cross – Red Cross personnel are not on site, lend logistical support, authorize securing hotel rooms for those in need
- Due to COVID, not opening regular shelters
- Housed 7 people at Topaz Lodge
- Thanked Social Services staff, Kyla Closson, Cynthia Musgrove, and Pat Espinosa for helping at the evacuation sites
- Thanked Fire Chief Dave Fogerson of the East Fork Fire Protection District for support

Ingrid Braun, Mono County Sheriff:

- Slink Fire update – Collaborative effort, worked with CHP, Fish and Wildlife, Caltrans to notify residents.
- Thanked Chief Mokracek's team and Social Services staff
- Reminder for everyone to have a plan

Janet Dutcher, Finance Director:

- Published recommended County budget for fiscal year 2020-2021, can be accessed on County website in the Budget Portal
- Budget public hearing, which precedes adoption of the budget, is scheduled for September 8 at 1PM

Shannon Kendall, Clerk-Recorder-Registrar, Scheereen Dedman, Assistant Clerk-Recorder-Registrar:

- Every single voter in Mono County will get a vote-by-mail ballot mailed to them
- Different options to turn ballots in
- Accepting comments on ballot boxes
- Vote-by-Mail ballot tracking - <http://wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov/>
- Met with Dr. Boo regarding polling locations – will have all six normal polling locations
- If voting at a polling location, voter must bring their unvoted mail in ballot to the polling location to exchange for a polling place ballot that can be fed through the machines. Otherwise, voter must vote provisionally.

Michelle Raust, Child and Adult Services Program Manager:

- Update regarding child welfare in relation to COVID-19 pandemic
- Significant drop of reports of child abuse – 40% drop during months of March, April, May, and June
- Starting in August, reports have increased, numbers are now the same as this time last year
- 6% below statewide average for substantiated reports
- Will be back in November with a more thorough update for child welfare in Mono County

5. CONSENT AGENDA

(All matters on the consent agenda are to be approved on one motion unless a board member requests separate action on a specific item.)

A. Monthly Treasury Transaction Report

Departments: Finance

Treasury Transaction Report for the month ending 7/31/2020.

Action: Approve the Treasury Transaction Report for the month ending 7/31/2020.

Peters moved; Gardner seconded

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

M20-174

B. Proposed Ordinance Prohibiting Owner-Occupied Short-Term Rentals in Swall Meadows

Departments: Community Development - Planning

Proposed ordinance prohibiting owner-occupied short-term rentals in Swall Meadows.

Action: Adopt proposed ordinance ORD20-08, prohibiting owner-occupied short-term rentals in Swall Meadows.

Peters moved; Gardner seconded

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

ORD20-08

C. Third Amendment to Civic Center Furniture Purchase, Moving, and Assembly Agreement

Departments: County Administrative Office, IT Department

Proposed Third Amendment to the agreement with Reno Business Interiors, Inc. and Office Environments, Inc. for the purchase of new Civic Center furniture and sneeze guards and related moving and assembly services.

Action: (1) Approve the Agreement and Third Amendment to Agreement for the Purchase of Furniture and Related Services between the Count of Mono, Reno Business Interiors, Inc., and Office Environments, Inc. ("Third Amendment"); (2) Authorize the County Administrative Office to execute the Third Amendment on behalf of the Board of Supervisors.

Peters moved; Gardner seconded

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

M20-175

Public Comment:

- No Name

Dave Wilbrecht, Consultant:

- Addressed public comment questions

Janet Dutcher, Finance Director:

- The \$6,005.79 for furniture for the CAO's office and DA's office is not funded from CARES Act money, it is being funded out of leftover funds from the Civic Center Project, Fund 193.
- The remainder of the increase in the contract is CARES funding eligible

Stacey Simon, County Counsel:

- Civic Center operation is in compliance with all State and local COVID requirements and there are no prohibited gatherings allowed

D. Second Amendment to Contract for Indigent Defense Services

Departments: County Counsel

Proposed second amendment contract with Liebersbach, Mohun & Reed for the Provision of Indigent Defense Services pertaining to a change in the name of the firm and its ownership structure.

Action: Approve County entry into proposed contract amendment and authorize the Chair to execute said contract amendment on behalf of the County. Provide any desired direction to staff.

Peters moved; Gardner seconded

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

M20-176

E. Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Grant COVID Funding

Departments: Elections

The U.S. Elections Assistance Commission, through the State of California, is offering HAVA federal reimbursement funding to comply with the requirements of HAVA Section 101 for additional costs associated with the national emergency related to the coronavirus. These funds must be expended by December 31, 2020.

Action: Approve, and authorize the Mono County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters to sign, Agreement #20G26126 with the California Secretary of State for receipt of up to \$26,627.00 to be spent “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally, for the 2020 Federal election cycle”.

Peters moved; Gardner seconded

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no

M20-177

6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Direction may be given to staff regarding, and/or the Board may discuss, any item of correspondence listed on the agenda.

The Board acknowledged receipt of the correspondence.

A. Application for Alcoholic Beverage License - Sportsmen's Bar and Grill, LLC

An application to the State of California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control for Alcoholic Beverage License by Sportsmen's Bar and Grill, LLC doing business as Sportsmen's Bar and Grill located at 271 Main St., Bridgeport, CA 93517.

B. Mono Basin Historical Society Thank You Letter

Letter of thanks from the Mono Basin Historical Society to the Board for last year's Historical Society Support Grant.

C. Letters re: Mono County New Jail Project

Letters from Bridgeport residents to the Board regarding the proposed plan to build a new County Jail in Bridgeport.

Supervisor Peters:

- Requested future agenda item for update from staff

D. Letter re: DeChambeau Ranch and Ponds and Wilson Creek

A letter from Hillary Hansen Jones to the Board regarding DeChambeau Ranch and Ponds and Wilson Creek.

Public Comment:

- Hillary Hansen Jones
- Katie Maloney Bellomo

Technical difficulties

Break: 10:47 AM

Reconvened: 10:54 AM

- Bartshe Miller

E. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Letter re: Plan and Schedule for the 2019 Eastern Operations Dam Safety Inspection Follow-up Items

A letter from Frank L. Blackett, P.E., Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Regional Engineer, to James A. Buerkle, Southern California Edison Company Director of Generation, regarding a plan and schedule for the 2019 Eastern Operations dams listed in the Enclosure.

Public Comment:

- Katie Maloney Bellomo

F. Office of Head Start Response to Letter from Board Supporting Inyo Mono Advocates for Community Action (IMACA) Appeal of Denial for Head Start Grant

A letter from Dr. Deborah Bergeron, Director of the Office of Head Start, to Chair Corless in response to the letter sent on August 17, 2020 from the Board of Supervisors supporting Inyo Mono Advocates for Community Action's appeal of the denial for the Head Start Grant.

Robert Hughes, IMACA Executive Director, Brittany Nelson, IMACA Preschool Director:

- Provided background information on the Head Start Grant

- Addressed letter from Dr. Deborah Bergeron

G. Notice of Availability of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Casa Diablo IV Project

The Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (District) is the Lead Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is seeking public and agency comments on a 2020 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the Casa Diablo IV Geothermal Power Plant Project (Project) during a 45-day public review period between August 27, 2020 and October 12, 2020.

Break: 11:13 AM

Reconvened: 11:23 AM

7. REGULAR AGENDA - MORNING

A. 2019 Annual Crop & Livestock Report

Departments: Agricultural Commissioner

(Nathan D. Reade, Agricultural Commissioner) - Presentation by Nathan Reade regarding 2019 Annual Crop and Livestock Report for Mono County.

Action: None.

Nathan Reade, Agricultural Commissioner:

- In light of fires up north, there are N95 masks available for agricultural producers impacted by smoke
- Presented 2019 Annual Crop and Livestock Report

Moved to item 7C.

B. Census 2020 Update

Departments: CAO

(Robert C. Lawton) - Pursuant to Article I of the United State Constitution, the decennial Census of the United States is fundamental to apportioning legislative representation at the local, state and federal levels. In addition, information from the Census forms the basis for distribution of state and federal funding for highways, education, roads and social programs.

Census Director Steven Dillingham announced from Washington on July 30 that Census counting efforts would end on September 30 - a month earlier than previously scheduled. Closing the Census on September 30 would include termination of all online, telephone and mail efforts to reach and count the American population.

California's statewide self-response rate is 67%. Among California Counties, response rates range from a high of 77% in San Mateo County, to a low of 21% in Mono County.

Action: The County Administrative Officer recommends that the Board
1) Receive briefings from staff and stakeholders on the importance to Mono County of an accurate Census count and status of Census activities in Mono County; and 2) Discuss possible approaches to raising Mono County's response rate.

Bob Lawton, CAO:

- Introduced item
- Mono County is 58th out of 58 counties in California for census response rate

Supervisor Kreitz:

- Provided background on Mono County census outreach
- 21.1% response rate in Mono County, 15.2% response rate in Mammoth Lakes
- Mammoth Lakes Library has two census stations open until end of September

Supervisor Gardner:

- Three-quarters of homes in June Lake are second homes - numbers don't truly reflect response rate

Supervisor Stump:

- Complaint from census worker who lives in Chalfant about being sent to another County to work, not being provided with PPE.
- Concerned about the process

Brianna Brown, Census Worker:

- Required to leave certain documentation at residences
- Described experience working in rural communities

Supervisor Corless:

- Direct CAO Lawton to write letter to regional census Bakersfield office regarding the issue of census workers not being allowed to work in their own County

Public Comment:

- David Carle

Break: 3:25 PM

Reconvened: 3:31 PM

Moved to Item 7D

C. COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update

Departments: CAO

(Robert C. Lawton) - Update on Countywide response and planning related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including reports from the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Unified Command (UC), and the various branches of the EOC, including Community Support and Economic Recovery, Joint Information Center (JIC), and Public Health. Specific topics include, but are not limited to: Discussion of recent State-announced changes to COVID-19 response and re-opening plans.

Action: None.

Bob Lawton, CAO:

- Received clear guidance from State regarding State's approach to mitigating COVID spread and giving an idea of how we will move toward less restrictive guidelines and regulations.
- There are four risk tiers: Minimal, Moderate, Substantial, and Widespread
- Mono County is in the Moderate risk tier, will not be able to move into Minimal risk tier for 21 days
- Eight households currently in quarantine, no one at the Sierra Nevada Resort
- 105 tests last week, all came back negative
- Submitted ELC Grant application - includes Community Health Program Grant Coordinator and Community Health Outreach Specialist positions, additional supplies, increase in testing staff and contact tracers
- Mammoth Hospital reports more than adequate testing capacity and PPE available for hospital staff
- Dr. Boo and Sheriff Braun recorded PSAs for the Yosemite Gateway Area Coordination Team – 30-second videos reminding people to wear masks, maintain social distancing, wash hands, avoid gatherings.

Dr. Tom Boo, Mono County Health Officer:

- State seems committed to establishing an equity metric to look at how well jurisdictions are doing with health disparities related to COVID
- No COVID patients in Mammoth Hospital at this time
- 2-1-1 call volume is moderate
- Local and state employee screening requirements
- State is discouraging combining flu shots and COVID testing

Chris Mokracek, EMS Chief:

- Working with Cal OES to acquire a 30-day supply of PPE for businesses
- Working with Public Health to get paramedics involved with flu clinics at end of month
- Meeting with Toiyabe to discuss testing and how to assist in North County

Ingrid Braun, Mono County Sheriff:

- Weekly law enforcement partners meeting yesterday – discussed what is anticipated for Labor Day weekend
- Calls continue for illegal campfires
- Mammoth Police Department staffing overtime details this weekend – parking issues and crowding at Horseshoe and Lake Mary areas
- Issues at Wild Willy's and other hot springs
- MLFD, MLPD, Sheriff, and Inyo National Forest – Mammoth Scenic Loop enforcement

Justin Caporusso, Public Information Manager:

- PSAs will be posted on social media
- Joint messaging regarding avoiding gatherings and recreating responsibly
- JIC going through all local orders and comparing them to the State order to identify and outline where the County and Town may be more restrictive

Public Comment:

- No Name

Moved Items 7B and 7D to afternoon session.
Moved to Item 9.

D. Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Proposed Expenditure Plan

Departments: Finance, CAO

(Janet Dutcher) - The CARES Act was passed by Congress and signed into law on March 27, 2020. \$150 billion in aid to state and local governments was distributed from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) created by the CARES ACT, including \$9.5 billion allocated to the State of California. As part of the State's Adopted Budget, \$1.3 billion of this balance was allocated to California counties, including \$1,373,000 to Mono County, to reduce the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Today's agenda item will include a presentation describing the spending restrictions (and opportunities) and the recommended expenditure plan developed by staff. Period of eligibility began March 1 and extends to December 30, 2020.

Action: Receive presentation. Approve or amend staff recommendations for spending the County's CARES Act proceeds. Authorize the County Administrative Officer to shift funds between spending categories if one area has unspent funds.

Janet Dutcher, Finance Director:

- Introduced item
- Presented CARES Act Proposed Expenditure Plan

Bob Lawton, CAO:

- High level of uncertainty with respect to other funding the County may receive

Kathy Peterson, Social Services Director:

- Addressed food insecurity – Spoke with IMACA Executive Director regarding agency's need for additional funds for food program. At this time, funding support from State sources has been adequate. Not concerned about CalFresh program through Social Services.
- Right to Recover Program

Alicia Vennos, Economic Development Director:

- Economic Development, Tourism, and Film Commission working on draft outline of Business Assistance Program for unincorporated Mono County businesses
- Inyo County just launched a business assistance program called "Revive." Allocated \$800,000 from CARES Act funding, offering grants up to \$25,000.

Public Comment:

- No Name
- Ralph Lockhart

Moved to Item 11B.

8. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None.

9. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session: 12:43 PM
Reconvened: 1:12 PM

Nothing to report out of Closed Session.

A. Closed Session - Public Employee Evaluation

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS. Government Code section 54957. Title: (1) County Administrative Officer; (2) County Counsel.

B. Closed Session - Labor Negotiations

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. Government Code Section 54957.6. Agency designated representative(s): Bob Lawton, Stacey Simon, Dave Butters, Janet Dutcher, and Anne Frievalt. Employee Organization(s): Mono County Sheriff's Officers Association (aka Deputy Sheriff's Association), Local 39 - majority representative of Mono County Public Employees (MCPE) and Deputy Probation Officers Unit (DPOU), Mono County Paramedic Rescue Association (PARA), Mono County Public Safety Officers Association (PSO). Unrepresented employees: All.

THE AFTERNOON SESSION WILL RECONVENE NO EARLIER THAN 1:00 P.M.

10. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None.

11. REGULAR AGENDA - AFTERNOON

A. Public Hearing - Specific Plan Amendment to the June Lake Highlands' Specific Plan, with Tract Map modifications

Departments: Community Development - Planning

(Michael Draper) - Public hearing regarding proposed resolution adopting June Lake Highlands Specific Plan Amendment #2 and modification of Tract Map #34-24 and #34-26, allowing up to 27 properties to apply for a Vacation Home Rental Permit, consistent with General Plan Chapter 26 standards and regulations, on a first-come first-served basis. Vacation Home Rental Permits are specific to the owner of the property and do not transfer with the sale of property.

Action: None.

1. Open the public hearing for Specific Plan Amendment #2 and tract map modifications, receive public testimony, and make any desired changes.
2. Find that the project qualifies as a CEQA Exemption under CEQA Section 15301(a).
3. Adopt Resolution R20-__ (Attachment #1) Adopting June Lake

Highlands Specific Plan Amendment #2 and Modification of Tract Map #34-24 and #34-26, with any desired modifications and making all required findings.

Michael Draper, Planning Analyst:

- Presentation (available on meeting webpage under Supporting Documents)
- Provided background on plan
- Addressed questions from the Board

Wendy Sugimura, Community Development Director:

- Addressed questions from the Board

Alicia Vennos, Economic Development Director:

- Workforce housing issues in June Lake and Lee Vining

Public Hearing opened: 2:15 PM

George Larson, applicant

Public Comment:

- Jin and Charles Hewet

George Larson, applicant, response

Public Hearing closed: 2:35 PM

Board deliberation

Supervisor Gardner:

- Would like to take time to speak to the residents and property owners for feedback before making a decision

Supervisor Kreitz:

- Availability of affordable housing for workforce
- Willing to support owner-occupied short term rentals

Supervisor Stump:

- Support Supervisor Gardner's request for additional time to speak to residents and property owners

Supervisor Peters:

- Support Supervisor Gardner's request for additional time to speak to residents and property owners

Supervisor Corless:

- Support Supervisor Gardner's request for additional time to speak to residents and property owners

Board consensus to allow Supervisor Gardner time to communicate with June Lake Highlands property owners regarding proposed plan.

Moved to Item 7B.

B. Community Support Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2020-21 - Budget Workshop

Departments: CAO, Finance

(Robert C. Lawton, County Administrative Office; Janet Dutcher, Finance Director) - Final Budget Workshop for Fiscal Year 2020-21 to discuss the County Administrator's Recommended Budget for the Community Support Grant Program.

Action: Stump moved to reopen the item and reconsider the allocation of the \$44,000 at the September 8 Budget Hearing; Kreitz seconded

Vote: 2 yes, 3 no

Motion failed.

Roll call:

Supervisor Corless: No

Supervisor Gardner: No

Supervisor Kreitz: Yes

Supervisor Peters: No

Supervisor Stump: Yes

Public Comment:

- No Name

12. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Postpone Board reports to next week.

ADJOURNED AT 4:52 PM in memory of Laura Kreitz and Tom Berryhill.

ATTEST

**STACY CORLESS
CHAIR OF THE BOARD**

**QUEENIE BARNARD
SENIOR DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD**