



**STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SIERRA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING**

Lee Adams, Chair, District 1

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Peter W. Huebner, Vice-Chair, District 2

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Paul Roen, District 3

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Terry LeBlanc, District 4

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Sharon Dryden, District 5

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The Sierra County Board of Supervisors met in regular session commencing at 9:00 a.m. on January 4, 2022. This meeting was recorded for posting on the Board of Supervisors' website at www.sierracounty.ca.gov.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Supervisor Huebner

ROLL CALL

Present: Lee Adams, Supervisor, Chair, District #1
Peter W. Huebner, Supervisor, Vice Chair, District #2
Paul Roen, Supervisor, District #3
Sharon Dryden, Supervisor, District #5

Absent: Terry LeBlanc, Supervisor, District #4

Staff: Heather Foster, County Clerk-Recorder
David Prentice, County Counsel
Van Maddox, Auditor/Treasurer Tax Collector
Tim Beals, Director of Planning/Public Works/Transportation/OES
Lea Salas, Director of Behavioral Health
Vickie Clark, Director of Health and Social Services
Celia Sutton-Pado, County Health Officer

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SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

The Board moved to nominate Supervisor Roen as the new Chair.

APPROVED. Motion: Dryden/Huebner/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 4/0/1 (Supervisor LeBlanc ABSENT)

The Board moved to nominate Supervisor Dryden as the new Vice-Chair.

APPROVED. Motion: Huebner/Roen/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 4/0/1 (Supervisor LeBlanc ABSENT)

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

The Board moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

APPROVED. Motion: Huebner/Adams/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 4/0/1 (Supervisor LeBlanc ABSENT)

11. CONSENT AGENDA

11.A. Authorize payment of Invoice Number 58120 to Freon Free, Inc. for removal of mercury switches and evacuation of vehicles and appliances to prepare for metal recycling at the Loyalton Transfer Station. (PUBLIC WORKS)

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR AGENDA

At the request of the Personnel Director the Clerk requested pulling Item 9.A. from the agenda.

9.A. Conference with labor negotiators pursuant to Government Code section 54957.6, Margaret Long Negotiator, Miscellaneous, Road, and Deputy Sheriff's Association (DSA) bargaining units.

APPROVED. Huebner/Adams/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 4/0/1 (Supervisor LeBlanc ABSENT)

REGULAR AGENDA

2. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

At 9:06 a.m. Chair Roen opened and closed the public comment opportunity with no persons addressing the Board.

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3. COMMITTEE REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

No reports were given.

4. DEPARTMENT MANAGERS' REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Director of Health and Social Services reported on the recent purchase of a car for Social Services.

5. FOREST SERVICE UPDATE

Acting Sierraville District Ranger Rachel Hutchison indicated there was nothing to report at this time.

Yuba River District Ranger Lon Henderson reported on power outages on the west side of the district.

6. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

6.A. CONTINUED COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY UPDATE: Report from Sierra County Public Health, County Office of Emergency Services, County Department Managers, Forest Service Representatives, and other local agencies on recent developments relating developments to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and possible action/direction to staff. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

The Director of Health reported on new case rates throughout the state; concerns around hospitalization capacity; the Omicron variant proving to be less severe in illness but spreading fast and causing businesses to close across the country; case rates in Sierra County; testing and vaccinations; new quarantine/isolation timeframes; concerns regarding county employees losing work time if exposed; working to provide COVID test kits to every child in in the School District; the School Board advocating to be exempt from the vaccine requirement and requesting Public Health's support; and the School District not having voted on the universal masking requirement and are deferring to the administration for guidance.

The County Health Officer commented on the CDC guidance recommending antigen tests over PCR tests and the new five-day isolation/quarantine timeframe requiring strict masking following isolation.

The Director of Health continued to comment on the isolation guidelines.

Supervisor Adams commented on the discussion with the Department Managers regarding concerns over employees who do not have enough leave time not staying home if exposed to COVID as they don't want to go without pay. Supervisor Adams

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further suggested the Director of Health, Personnel and County Counsel work on a policy to address this issue.

Following discussion and by consensus, the Board directed staff to work on a policy addressing leave time for employees who are exposed to COVID.

The Director further indicated that COVID tests are available at Health and Human Services and Personnel's office in Downieville.

- 6.B. Discussion/action regarding conducting meetings of the Sierra County Board of Supervisors in accordance with AB 361 and Sierra County Resolution 2021-140. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

Supervisor Dryden expressed concerns with conducting hybrid meetings due to the recent increase in cases due to the Omicron variant.

Supervisor Adams suggested waiting until February to conduct hybrid meetings again.

The Board moved to continue to conduct meetings remotely and revisit this again at the next meeting.

APPROVED. Motion: Adams/Huebner/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 4/0/1 (Supervisor LeBlanc ABSENT)

- 6.C. Discussion/action regarding appointments to commissions, board and associations; standing committees; term appointments made by the full board; and ad-hoc committees for the 2022 Calendar Year. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

Supervisor Huebner suggested changing the Finance Committee to automatically be the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Supervisor Dryden indicated her preference of keeping Supervisor Adams and Chair Roen on the Finance Committee.

Discussion ensued with the Board.

The Clerk clarified that the Standing Committee resolution will need to be amended if the Board decides to change the Finance Committee members to an automatic rotation of the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Discussion ensued regarding the Finance Committee.

Supervisor Adams suggested not making the automatic rotation and continuing to leave the Finance Committee assignments up to the Chair.

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Following discussion and by consensus, the Board continued this item to the next meeting when all Board members are present.

7. PUBLIC WORKS/TRANSPORTATION - TIM BEALS

- 7.A. Resolution approving Funds Transfer Agreement and Memorandum of Agreement to the Federal Lands Access Program for the Gold Lake and Lakes Basin Roads Rehabilitation Project.

The Director of Public Works provided background on the FLAP program for the Gold Lake and Lakes Basin Roads Rehabilitation Project which requires a \$10,000 deposit to show the County is taking part in the program.

The Board moved to adopt the resolution approving Funds Transfer Agreement and Memorandum of Agreement to the Federal Lands Access Program for the Gold Lake and Lakes Basin Roads Rehabilitation Project.

ADOPTED, Resolution 2022-001 and **APPROVED**, Agreement 2022-001. Motion: Huebner/Adams/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 4/0/1 (Supervisor LeBlanc ABSENT)

- 7.B. Approval of license agreements with PG&E to open warming centers (CRC) in Downieville at the Community Hall and in Alleghany at the Emergency Services-Road Department Building for a period of seven days commencing December 31, 2021.

The Director of Public Works provided brief background on approving the license agreement with PG&E to use the Downieville Community Hall for a warming center which is at no cost to the County.

Following brief discussion, the Board moved to approve the license agreements with PG&E to open warming centers (CRC) in Downieville at the Community Hall and in Alleghany at the Emergency Services-Road Department Building.

APPROVED, Agreement 2022-002 and Agreement 2022-003. Motion: Adams/Huebner/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 4/0/1 (Supervisor LeBlanc ABSENT)

- 7.C. Funding agreement for one-time funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for additional support for Sierra County and for the Sierra County Fire Safe and Watershed Council and its program of work.

The Director of Public Works provided background on the Sierra Nevada Conservancy offering the county an additional sum of money to be added to the scope of work for the North Yuba Project. The proposed agreement solidifies and captures the funding stream with the deadline that needs to be met.

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In response to Supervisor Dryden's inquiry, the Director indicated the additional funding amount is approximately \$258,000.

The Board moved to approve the funding agreement for one-time funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for additional support for Sierra County and for the Sierra County Fire Safe and Watershed Council and its program of work and authorized the Director of Public Works to sign said agreement.

APPROVED, Agreement 2022-004. Motion: Adams/Huebner/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 4/0/1 (Supervisor LeBlanc ABSENT)

10. TIMED ITEMS

10.A. 10:00 AM CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING - BAARSMA NUISANCE PROCEEDING

Continued public hearing to determine existence of a nuisance as contained in a formal complaint filed with the Sierra County Planning Department in compliance with Chapter 8.20 of the Sierra County Code against Painter Eden Kyler Baarsma as the property owner for property located at 100 Main Street, Sierraville, CA, Assessor Parcel No. 015-052-001-000 and discussion/direction to staff with respect to findings and nuisance abatement process.

The Director of Planning indicated he has received a proposal from the property owner and has also been in contact with Environmental Health, however he is not prepared to give a recommendation to the Board at this time.

The Director continued to comment on inquiries he's received about the status of the property and interests in purchasing the property.

Chair Roen commended some of the community members for removing forty-five yards of waste from the property.

The Solid Waste Fee Administrator commented on waste that was removed from the property and whether it was billed through gate fees or if she should be adding this to the property solid waste bill.

Comments were received by Painter Baarsma, property owner, indicating that he has hired contractor to move forward with the repairs to the outside of the structure, including the staircase, in the Spring. Mr. Baarsma continued to comment on renting a tractor from Truckee Rentals and having found a heavy equipment operator to fill in the holes on the property once the snow melts. In addition, he has retained a realtor to sell the property.

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Chair Roen recommend Mr. Baarsma provide full disclosure to the realtor and encouraged the Director to seek some significant facts from Mr. Baarsma on how he plans to move forward.

The Director encouraged the Board to continue the hearing to date and time certain, preferably February 1, 2022.

The Board moved to continue the hearing to February 1, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. in Downieville.

APPROVED. Motion: Adams/Huebner/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: (Supervisor LeBlanc ABSENT)

- 7.D. Discussion and consideration of a resolution proclaiming and declaring a local state of emergency in Sierra County to confirm the Governor's proclamation that included Sierra County and to direct staff resources to summarize costs and other issues resulting from the winter storm events commencing in December 2021.

The Director of Public Works provided background on the Governor's proclamation which included Sierra County and the county also needing to adopt a resolution proclaiming and declaring a local state of emergency to take advantage of funding opportunities.

The Director continued to review the recent storm and the extensive costs incurred to the county in overtime, equipment, etc., which he believes compels the resolution declaring the state of local emergency to be adopted today and opens the door to other local agencies that suffered damages or incurred costs from the storm.

The Director continued to review in detail the number of people within the county who are still without power; issues with propane deliveries; the inability to obtain fuel on the west side of the county for generators and looking at ways the county can supply fuel for residents for their generators; GPS systems directing visitors to county roads and needing to make these computer-based systems companies liable for putting people in harm's way; and issues with short-term rentals not being prepared for large storms and putting visitors at risk.

Following brief discussion, the Board moved to adopt the resolution proclaiming and declaring a local state of emergency in Sierra County to confirm the Governor's proclamation that included Sierra County and to direct staff resources to summarize costs and other issues resulting from the winter storm events commencing in December 2021.

ADOPTED, Resolution 2022-002. Motion: Adams/Huebner/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 4/0/1

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Supervisor Adams continued to comment on the recent discussion with the Department Managers regarding the need for a policy to address leave time when employees are unable to get to work due to storms and road closures. Supervisor Adams further explained that he would support Department Managers allowing the use of vacation, comp-time, or fronting vacation time to those employees who don't have time available, however he is not supportive of remote work or flextime.

Supervisor Adams recommended the Board refer this to the Government Committee and indicated that the county needs to treat all employees consistently and that this may be a meet and confer issue.

Brief discussion ensued.

County Counsel recommended the Government Committee develop a policy and then take this to the union.

By consensus, the Board referred this matter to the Government Committee and authorized Department Managers to use their discretion to allow employees to use vacation or comp-time pending the development of a policy.

Supervisor Adams continued to address the issue with Google Maps and concerns that a county of 3000 will not make a difference with these companies and would suggest having more signs posted. And with respect to vacation rentals, he believes the sooner we have a policy in place the better.

The Director continued to express the need for proactive measures to keep people from being at risk including gates for road closures and encouraged a meeting to address this issue.

Supervisor Adams added that he will bring this issue up to CSAC and RCRC as he sees this as a regional issue.

8. BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

At 10:46 a.m. Chair Roen recessed as the Board of Supervisors and reconvened as the Board of Equalization.

At 10:48 a.m. Chair Roen adjourned the Board of Equalization and reconvened as the Board of Supervisors.

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ADJOURN

At 10:48 a.m., with no further business, Chair Roen adjourned the meeting.

PAUL ROEN, CHAIR
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

HEATHER FOSTER
CLERK OF THE BOARD