



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

**Lee Adams, District 1**

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**Peter W. Huebner, District 2**

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**Paul Roen, Chair, District 3**

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**Terry LeBlanc, District 4**

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**Sharon Dryden, Vice Chair, District 5**

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The Sierra County Board of Supervisors met in regular session commencing at 9:00 a.m. on July 5, 2022 in the Board of Supervisors' Chambers, Courthouse, Downieville, CA. This meeting was recorded for posting on the Board of Supervisors' website at [www.sierracounty.ca.gov](http://www.sierracounty.ca.gov).

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Supervisor Huebner

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Lee Adams, Supervisor, District #1  
Peter W. Huebner, Supervisor, District #2  
Paul Roen, Supervisor, Chair, District #3  
Terry LeBlanc, Supervisor, District #4  
Sharon Dryden, Supervisor, Vice Chair, District #5

**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  
Chuck Henson, Chief Probation Officer  
Mike Fisher, Sheriff/Coroner

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## **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

The Board moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

**APPROVED.** Motion: Huebner/LeBlanc/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

### **11. CONSENT AGENDA**

11.A. Professional Services Agreement between Toddler Towers, Inc. and Sierra County Social Services for early childhood care and education, parent support and respite care services. (SOCIAL SERVICES)

**APPROVED,** Agreement 2022-087

11.B. Agreement between County of Sierra and Northern California EMS, Inc. for Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA) Deliverables Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. (PUBLIC HEALTH)

**APPROVED,** Agreement 2022-088

11.C. Professional Services Agreement between Dr. Don Stembridge, Ph.D., and Sierra County for behavioral health services. (BEHAVIORAL HEALTH)

**APPROVED,** Agreement 2022-089

11.D. Professional Services Agreement between North American Mental Health Services (NAMHS) and County of Sierra for Telemedicine services. (BEHAVIORAL HEALTH)

**APPROVED,** Agreement 2022-090

11.E. Professional Services Agreement between Sierra County Office of Education and Sierra County Behavioral Health for Substance Abuse Prevention programs. (BEHAVIORAL HEALTH)

**APPROVED,** Agreement 2022-091

11.F. Renewal of Contract between Cadence Team, Inc., and the County of Sierra for network support services. (INFORMATION SYSTEMS)

**APPROVED,** Agreement 2022-092

11.G. Resolution rescinding Resolution 2022-074 and authorizing and approving grant application filed with USDA Emergency Rural Health Care Grants for funding toward the Downieville Community Hall Renovation Project, as

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well as directing inclusion of the grant budget in the Fiscal Year 22-23 budget. (PUBLIC WORKS)

**ADOPTED**, Resolution 2022-079

## **APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR AGENDA**

The Board moved to approve the Regular Agenda.

**APPROVED.** Motion: Huebner/Adams/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **2. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY**

At 9:03 a.m. Chair Roen opened the public comment opportunity.

Comments were received by Seth Howard, Field Representative for Northern California Carpenters Union.

At 9:05 a.m. Chair Roen closed the public comment opportunity with no further persons addressing the Board.

### **3. COMMITTEE REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Supervisor Adams commented on Josefa's murder in Downieville 171 years ago today.

### **4. DEPARTMENT MANAGERS' REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Director of Planning reported on an upcoming meeting with Plumas County regarding the solid waste agreements and introduced the new Planning Administrative Secretary, Monica Beachell.

The Chief Probation Officer provided an update on the Pre-trial Probation Officer position.

The Assessor reported on sending out the secured property value notices.

The Director of Behavioral Health reported on the notice from the State Department of Health Care Services requiring all counties to have 24/7 mobile crisis units set up by 2024 and expressed concerns with the ability to meet the requirements due to the departments limited resources.

### **5. FOREST SERVICE UPDATE**

Sierraville District Ranger Rachel Hutchinson provided an update on hiring and various projects in the district.

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In response to Supervisor Adams' inquiry regarding the current fire danger level on the Sierraville District, Ranger Hutchinson responded that there are no restrictions right now for campfires but expects this will change over the next few weeks. What has changed is the recent forest order restricting where people can disperse camp.

Supervisor LeBlanc thanked Ranger Hutchinson for her participation in the 4th of July parade.

Yuba River District Ranger Lon Henderson reported on the west side of the county being in a moderate fire danger level and various other matters going on in the district

- 9.D. Continued discussion/action on meeting held June 22, 2022, with the Acting Tahoe National Forest Supervisor Matt Jedra to address a number of issues of concern previously identified by the Board of Supervisors. (CHAIR ROEN)

Chair Roen introduced the item indicating that there has not been a response to the concerns brought up at the meeting.

Supervisor Adams expressed concerns with the amount of garbage being deposited at the bins at Bassetts from campgrounds and the Sierra County taxpayers subsidizing the people of the United States.

In response to Chair Roen's inquiry regarding responses back to the Assessor, Ranger Henderson indicated that the Minerals Officer who was supposed to address some of this is out due to COVID.

In response to Supervisor Dryden's inquiry regarding campground closures, Ranger Henderson explained that the SPA (Supplemental Project Agreement) through the grants and agreements with the National Forest Foundation (NFF) is much further along than they thought so they still may be requesting the county for help with this.

In response to Chair Roen's inquiry regarding whether the county can move forward with opening the campgrounds through the MSA, Ranger Henderson reiterated that the SPA with NFF for the money to work in the campgrounds is much further along and should be signed imminently.

Discussion ensued with the Board.

The Director of Planning questioned permit issues with individuals camping on the south side of the Yuba River and would appreciate some reaction from the Forest Service if there isn't a permit for camping. The Director also expressed concerns with not receiving any response to the county's response letter to the National Forest Foundation's request for the county to outline concepts/projects the county felt could be implemented this year.

Following discussion, the Board moved to direct staff to draft and submit a response letter signed by the Chair to Acting Forest Supervisor Matt Jedra.

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**APPROVED.** Motion: Dryden/Adams/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

**6. PLANNING / BUILDING - TIM BEALS**

6.A. Discussion and direction to schedule public hearing for the Short-Term Rental Ordinance.

Following brief discussion, by consensus the Board scheduled the public hearing for September 6, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in Downieville.

**7. COUNTY COUNSEL/PERSONNEL - DAVID PRENTICE**

7.A. Discussion/action regarding the adoption of an ordinance to regulate parking of commercial shuttle vehicles within Downieville, or the use of public space for services offered to shuttle customers and the requirement that such shuttle vehicles obtain permits for operation.

County Counsel provided brief background on the item.

Supervisor Adams addressed the comments and complaints he and the Sheriff have both received regarding this issue. Supervisor Adams further explained that we are here today because we have an industry that is too successful, and the issue is the industry is in a town designed back in the 1850s. He believes in trying to make this better for all involved and suggested addressing this in incremental steps – the bottom line is there is only so much parking and sidewalk space in Downieville.

The Sheriff commented on complaints received regarding speeding, parking, etc. and suggested getting something uniformed with the shuttles to reduce the congestion on Main Street.

Supervisor Huebner suggested using the trailhead or the Forest Service vacant land behind the courthouse.

Supervisor Adams continued to make suggestions to address the issue.

The Director of Public Works commented on the issue and expressed concerns with the use of a public right of way for loading bikes and the potential of liability. The Director further suggested the use of the gas station property or the Forest Service parking lot.

Mr. Greg Long, Downieville Outfitters commented on the location of his business on Main Street which is good for business, but not for loading. Mr. Long added that he would like to use the school however it didn't work out. Mr. Long continued to express concerns with utilizing the Forest Service property or the North Yuba Trailhead due to the distance from the business.

Supervisor Adams reiterated that the community is lucky to have this industry and he doesn't want to do anything to chill it, only manage it. Supervisor Adams further

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suggested the Chair appoint himself and Supervisor Huebner to a committee to meet with Mr. Long and other merchants in town to discuss this further and to send a message to the shuttle operators that they need to get off Main Street now and talk to the school about loading on the school property.

Following further discussion, Chair Roen appointed Supervisors Adams and Huebner to an Ad Hoc Committee to address regulating parking of commercial shuttle vehicles within Downieville.

- 9.F. Discussion/action on letter of support for the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship's (SBTS) Sierra Valley Recreation Project which is a key component to the Connected Communities Trails Master Plan. (SUPERVISOR ROEN)

Ms. Trinity Stirling, Connected Communities Project Coordinator, Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, provided background on the request for a letter of support of the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship's (SBTS) Sierra Valley Recreation Project which is a key component to the Connected Communities Trails Master Plan.

The Board moved to approve the letter of support for the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship's (SBTS) Sierra Valley Recreation Project which is a key component to the Connected Communities Trails Master Plan.

**APPROVED.** Motion: Dryden/Adams/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

## **10. TIMED ITEMS**

### **10.A. 10:00 A.M. FIRE RESTRICTIONS**

Continued discussion/action regarding prohibiting open fires on public and private property within the unincorporated area of Sierra County due to extreme fire danger. (SUPERVISOR HUEBNER)

Supervisor Huebner commented on the importance of getting this ordinance adopted especially with the recent Rices fire.

Supervisor Adams commented on both Ranger Hutchinson and Ranger Henderson's comments regarding fire restrictions and agreed that it's probably time to be fire smart.

Chair Roen commented on his discussion with the CalFire representative for our district who indicated that he would defer to the Forest Service for inspections and the Forest Service has indicated they would do the inspections if the county acted and imposed some standards.

Discussion ensued regarding whether this language could be added to the proposed ordinance and whether the Board could adopt an urgency ordinance without declaring a local state of emergency.

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Supervisor Huebner expressed concerns with not being able to adopt an urgency ordinance today.

Supervisor Adams suggested drafting a declaration of local state of emergency and urgency ordinance with the suggested language.

The Director of Public Works commented on matters that should be addressed in the proposed ordinance

Supervisor Adams indicated he agrees with imposing the same restrictions as last year with the exception of private campgrounds and treating them similar to Forest Service campgrounds so long as they are subject to inspections.

Additional discussion ensued regarding what findings are necessary to declare a local state of emergency.

Following discussion, the Board made a motion of intent to declare a local state of emergency and adopt an urgency ordinance with the current language and include language giving private campgrounds the same leeway as Forest Service campgrounds but subject to inspections.

The Sheriff suggested adding language in the declaration that all SPI lands have been closed off to the public, the Forest Service has enacted some fire restrictions recently, and the State of California is in a state of emergency with respect to drought conditions. The Sheriff also requested the Board consider addressing commercial barbeques and smokers in the ordinance.

**APPROVED.** Motion: Adams/Huebner/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

- 7.B. Amendment to Memorandum of Understanding 2022-008 with employees in the Road Workers Unit for Uniform and Boot allowances.

Following a brief overview by County Counsel, the Board moved to approve the amendment Memorandum of Understanding 2022-008 with employees in the Road Workers Unit for Uniform and Boot allowances.

**APPROVED,** Agreement 2022-093. Motion: Adams/Huebner/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

- 9.C. Discussion/action on request from the Pliocene Ridge Community Services District to waive \$150 in local building inspection fees with respect to the installation of a community electronic message board at the Pike City Firehouse. (SUPERVISOR ADAMS)

Supervisor Adams commented on the request from the Pliocene Ridge Community Services District to waive \$150 in building inspection fees, which he feels is a minimal request and the Board has previously waived the county's fees in the past. Supervisor Adams further clarified that the only fees being waived are the county's fees.

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The Board moved to approve the on request from the Pliocene Ridge Community Services District to waive \$150 in local building inspection fees with respect to the installation of a community electronic message board at the Pike City Firehouse.

**APPROVED.** Motion: Adams/Huebner/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

- 9.E. 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)

By consensus the Board directed continuing to conduct hybrid meetings in accordance with AB 361 and Sierra County Resolution 2021-140.

## **8. CLOSED SESSION**

- 8.A. Closed session pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9 (a) to discuss the following litigation: Feather River Action! and Project Coyote v. County of Plumas and Plumas-Sierra Counties Department of Agriculture; County of Sierra, Real Party of Interest, Plumas County Superior Court Case No. CV22-0037.
- 8.B. Conference with labor negotiators pursuant to Government Code section 54957.6, David Prentice Negotiator, Deputy Sheriff's Association (DSA).
- 8.C. Conference with labor negotiators pursuant to Government Code section 54957.6, David Prentice Negotiator, Mid-Management.
- 8.D. Conference with labor negotiators pursuant to Government Code section 54957.6, David Prentice Negotiator, Appointed Department Managers.

## **CLOSED SESSION STATEMENT**

The Board met in closed session 11:06 a.m. to 11:36 a.m.

With respect to Item 8.A., County Counsel reported that direction was given to staff and the Board unanimously approved a settlement in the amount of \$45,000 to be split 40/60 with Plumas County. Direction was given to staff on Item 8.B., and the Board made a determination with regards to Items 8.C. and 8.D.

## **9. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

- 9.A. Resolution authorizing a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for Mid-Management positions.

The Board continued this item to the next meeting.

- 9.B. Resolution authorizing a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for Department Managers.



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In response to Chair Roen's inquiry, the Chief Probation Officer on behalf of the department managers indicated that the department managers are willing to accept the Board's offer of the averaged 4% increase and forgo negotiations in the third year.

The Clerk reviewed the proposed resolution outlining the agreed upon offer of an averaged 4% increase effective December 23, 2022 for year 2023 and 0% for year 2024.

The Board moved to adopt the resolution authorizing a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for Department Managers.

**ADOPTED**, Resolution 2022-080. Motion: Adam/Dryden/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

**ADJOURN**

At 11:40 a.m., with no further business, Chair Roen adjourned the meeting.

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PAUL ROEN, CHAIR  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

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HEATHER FOSTER  
CLERK OF THE BOARD