



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

Lee Adams, Chair, District 1

P.O. Box 1 - Downieville, CA 95936 - 530-289-3506 - supervisor1@sierracounty.ca.gov

Peter W. Huebner, Vice-Chair, District 2

P.O. Box 349 - Sierra City, CA 96125 - 530-565-6055 - phuebner@sierracounty.ca.gov

Paul Roen, District 3

P.O. Box 43 - Calpine, CA 96124 - 209-479-2770 - supervisor3@sierracounty.ca.gov

Terry LeBlanc, District 4

P.O. Box 387 - Loyalton, CA 96118 - 530-993-0247 - tleblanc@sierracounty.ca.gov

Sharon Dryden, District 5

P.O. Box 246 - Loyalton, CA 96118 - 530-913-9218 - sdryden@sierracounty.ca.gov

The Sierra County Board of Supervisors met in regular session commencing at 9:00 a.m. on January 5, 2021. 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
Terry LeBlanc, Supervisor, District #4
Sharon Dryden, Supervisor, District #5

Staff: Heather Foster, County Clerk-Recorder
Amanda Uhrhammer, Deputy County Counsel
Van Maddox, Auditor/Treasurer Tax Collector
Tim Beals, Director of Planning and Transportation
Lea Salas, Director of Behavioral Health
Vickie Clark, Director of Health and Social Services

January 5, 2021

PASSING OF THE GAVEL

The gavel was passed to the new Chair, Lee Adams.

SELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

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

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT

At the request of the Clerk, Item 10.I. was pulled from the Consent Agenda.

10.I. Minutes from the regular meeting held December 1, 2020. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

The Board moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

APPROVED as amended. Motion: Dryden/Huebner/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

10. CONSENT AGENDA

10.A. Resolution adopting the Sierra County Bloodborne Pathogens and Communicable Disease Policy. (PERSONNEL)

ADOPTED, Resolution 2021-001

10.B. Resolution adopting the Sierra County Military Leave Policy. (PERSONNEL)

ADOPTED, Resolution 2021-002

10.C. Resolution approving Tolling Agreement with AT&T to allow an extension of processing time for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application, County Planning file #1669. (PLANNING)

ADOPTED, Resolution 2021-003

APPROVED, Agreement 2021-001

10.D. Authorize payment of Invoice 60438 in the amount of \$8,049.44 to Freon Free, Inc. for evacuation of refrigerants and removal of mercury switches which is required prior to recycling of the metal products received in the solid waste system. (PUBLIC WORKS)

January 5, 2021

- 10.E. Authorize Road Department expenditure in an amount not to exceed \$10,433.95 for Featherlite Big Tex Dump Trailer and authorize Auditor to add to inventory of Fixed Assets. (PUBLIC WORKS)
- 10.F. Resolution approving an agreement with State of California Department of Transportation entitled "Maintenance Agreement within State Highway Right of Way on Route 49 with the County" for ongoing maintenance of the gabion wall that was constructed within State Right of Way as a repair for Belle Street, a result of the 2017 storm damage. (PUBLIC WORKS)

ADOPTED, Resolution 2021-004
APPROVED, Agreement 2021-002

- 10.G. Resolution approving continued use of Master Bond for County Officials. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

ADOPTED, Resolution 2021-005

- 10.H. Minutes from the regular meeting held November 17, 2020. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

REGULAR AGENDA

The Board moved to approve the Regular Agenda.

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

At 9:08 a.m. Chair Adams opened and closed the public comment opportunity with no persons addressing the Board.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Huebner reported on another hotel for sale in Sierra City.

Supervisor Dryden reported on Sierra Brooks receiving their nationally recognized firewise status from the National Fire Protection Association.

Supervisor Adams reported on the RCRC Executive Board meeting this Friday to conduct interviews to replace RCRC's President Greg Norton as he is stepping down after decades of service.

January 5, 2021

4. DEPARTMENT MANAGERS' REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Director of Behavioral Health reported on the status of the No Place Like Home Project.

Personnel Analyst Judi Behlke provided the monthly staffing update and an update on COVID policies.

5. FOREST SERVICE UPDATE

Acting Yuba River District Ranger Sonja Lin provided an update on activities in the District.

Supervisor Huebner questioned the PCT Association not receiving any news from the Forest Service regarding whether the Forest Service will open the PCT trail in the near future.

Ranger Lin commented that she will look into this and get back to the Board.

Sierraville District Ranger Quentin Youngblood provided a report on activities in the District.

Supervisor Adams congratulated Supervisor LeBlanc on becoming the new District 4 Supervisor.

Supervisor LeBlanc commented on his decision to become a County Supervisor in order to make sure the people of Sierra County can continue to lead the life they are accustomed to.

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 California's statistics on COVID cases, the stay-at-home order extension, and Sierra County remaining in the Orange Tier.

School Superintendent James Berardi reported on having to shut the Downieville School down due to the increased cases on the west side of the County and implementing travel restrictions.

January 5, 2021

The Director of Health continued to report on the variant strain of COVID and priority populations beginning to receive the vaccination.

In response to Supervisor LeBlanc's inquiry, the Director clarified that his name is on the vaccination list for the priority group of 75 and older and the department will be reaching out to this group for vaccinations.

The Director continued to report on COVID testing.

The OES Director commented on certain County employees he would like to see receive the vaccine due to their exposure to the public. The Director further reported on the approval of a grant for \$75,000 for supplies and suggested referring the determination of the priority of the expenditure of these grant funds to a Board committee.

Following discussion and by consensus, the Board referred the discussion and recommendation of the expenditure of the \$75,000 grant funds to the Board of Supervisors Health and Social Services Standing Committee.

Sierraville District Ranger Quentin Youngblood reported on the Forest Service still in phase zero which is mandatory off-site work with some exceptions including emergency services staffed in the modules to respond to the needs of the County.

Supervisor Huebner expressed concerns with receiving several complaints regarding a private homeowner in Sierra City holding large parties.

Deputy County Counsel recommended they discuss enforcement through Public Health and the Sheriff following the meeting.

- 6.B. Discussion/action regarding appointments to commissions, board and associations; standing committees; term appointments made by the full board; and ad-hoc committees for the 2021 Calendar Year. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

Supervisor Adams recommended each member of the Board review the appointment lists and send any requested changes to the Clerk for review and approval at the next meeting.

- 6.C. Discussion/possible adoption of resolution pertaining to salaries for Sierra County Department Managers. (FINANCE COMMITTEE)

Chair Adams provided background on the Finance Committee's recommendation of a 2% COLA, which is the same percent the employees received. Chair Adams also commented on the Finance Committee's recognition that the Board has not given a COLA to the Department Managers in the last 15 years.

January 5, 2021

Supervisor Roen concurred with Chair Adams' comments and expressed his support of the 2% COLA at this time.

Supervisor Huebner commented on the number of comments he received from the public regarding the Finance Committee's original recommendation of 8% and expressed the need for better communication from the Committee.

Chair Adams responded to Supervisor Huebner's concerns explaining that there was three weeks between Board meetings and the Committee could not communicate with the other members of the Board without violating the Brown Act.

Supervisor Dryden expressed concerns with an across-the-board percent raise as it is not in the best interest of all the Department Managers. Supervisor Dryden further recommended the 2% increase and reviewing each position to make it more fair in the future.

Supervisor LeBlanc commented on not being comfortable voting on this at this time as he has only been a Supervisor for about an hour and half.

Public comment was received by Jim Johnston and Donald Russell in support of the 2% COLA.

The Board moved to adopt the resolution pertaining to salaries for Sierra County Department Managers.

ADOPTED, Resolution 2021-006. Motion: Roen/Dryden/Majority Roll Call Vote: 4/1 (Supervisor LeBlanc ABSTAIN)

6.D. Appointments to the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District.
(CLERK OF THE BOARD)

The Board moved to appoint Donald Wallace to the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District.

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

7. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH - LEA SALAS

7.A. Approval to proceed with the Loan Assumption Program implementation.

The Director of Behavioral Health provided background on the Loan Assumption Program that will help with recruiting clinicians to continue to meet the County's Network Adequacy Standards which stipulates that the County will have enough coverage of clinicians to meet the County's Medi-Cal population.

January 5, 2021

In response to Supervisor Dryden's inquiry, the Director explained how this program is funded through the Mental Health Services Act and is only \$20,000 for the current fiscal year and \$120,000 will be added to the MHSA five-year plan.

The Board moved to proceed with the Loan Assumption Program implementation.

Supervisor Dryden further expressed concerns with the Department's limited resources and questioned how much time it will take to administer the program.

The Director clarified this would be a slight impact, however it is worth doing as there would be an impact to their funding if they are not able to meet the need.

Comments were received by Jim Beard regarding his prior service on the Behavioral Health Advisory Board and expressed his support of the program as it would greatly increase the Behavioral Health application process and would give Sierra County an equal leg in attracting applicants.

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

7.B. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Plumas Crisis Intervention and Resource Center (PCIRC) and Sierra County Behavioral Health.

The Director of Behavioral Health provided background on the homeless prevention program approved last year in partnership with Plumas County and the need to have an MOU in place to release funding.

The Board moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Plumas Crisis Intervention and Resource Center (PCIRC) and Sierra County Behavioral Health.

APPROVED, Agreement 2021-003. Motion: Roen/Huebner/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

8. PERSONNEL DIRECTOR - MARGARET LONG

8.A. Discussion/approval of Reclassification Review and Salary Adjust Committee Policy and Procedures and appointment of two members of the Board of Supervisors to serve on the Reclassification Review and Salary Adjustment Committee.

The Clerk provided background on prior discussions between the Finance Committee and Department Managers regarding completing a full parity study to address some of the inadequacies within the current system and the proposed Reclassification Review and Salary Adjustment Committee Policy, which is an alternative process to having to pay an outside consultant to perform a new study for the County.

January 5, 2021

Comments were received by Supervisors Roen and Dryden thanking the Department Managers for bringing this forward.

Supervisor Adams suggested the Reclassification Review and Salary Adjustment Committee have the ability to meet as often as needed and expressed concerns about cherry picking positions and a race to the top.

The Clerk briefly commented on the requirements for submitting a request to the Personnel Director which will hopefully reduce the concerns.

Discussion ensued.

The Board moved to approve the Reclassification Review and Salary Adjustment Committee Policy and Procedures.

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

The Board moved to appoint Chair Adams and Supervisor Roen to the Reclassification Review and Salary Adjustment Committee.

APPROVED. Motion: Dryden/LeBlanc/Majority Roll Call Vote: 4/1 (Chair Adams NO)

9. CLOSED SESSION

9.A. Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 - performance review regarding County Counsel.

The Board met in closed session from 11:21 a.m. to 12:01 p.m.

ADJOURN

At 12:01 p.m., with no further business, Chair Beard adjourned the meeting.

LEE ADAMS, CHAIR
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

HEATHER FOSTER
CLERK OF THE BOARD