



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

Lee Adams, District 1

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Lila Heuer, District 2

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Paul Roen, Vice Chair, District 3

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Terry LeBlanc, District 4

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Sharon Dryden, Chair, District 5

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The Sierra County Board of Supervisors met in regular session commencing at 9:00 a.m. on January 17, 2023, at 105 Beckwith Street, Loyalton Social Hall, Loyalton, CA. This meeting was recorded for posting on the Board of Supervisors' website at www.sierracounty.ca.gov.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Supervisor Roen

A moment of silence was held for long time resident of Sierraville and retired County Supervisor Jerry McCaffrey.

ROLL CALL

Present: Lee Adams, Supervisor, District #1
Lila Heuer, Supervisor, District #2
Paul Roen, Supervisor, District #3
Terry LeBlanc, Supervisor, District #4
Sharon Dryden, Supervisor, 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
Lori McGee, Interim Director of Social Services
Rhonda Grandi, Interim Director of Public Health

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APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

At the request of the Clerk on behalf of the Director of Behavioral Health, Consent Item 10.B. was pulled from the Consent Agenda.

- 10.B. Resolution approving the Data Exchange/Data Sharing Agreement between the County of Sierra and California Health and Wellness Plan. (BEHAVIORAL HEALTH)

The Board moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

APPROVED as amended. Motion: Roen/Adams/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

10. CONSENT AGENDA

- 10.A. Housing and Homeless Incentive Program Agreement between Blue Cross of California Partnership Plan, Inc. and Sierra County Behavioral Health. (BEHAVIORAL HEALTH)

APPROVED, Agreement 2023-004

- 10.C. Resolution approving the Memorandum of Understanding about the California Pathways into Public Health Initiative (Cal-PPH) Fellows/Interns and authorizing the Public Health Interim Director to sign the Memorandum of Understanding. (PUBLIC HEALTH)

ADOPTED, Resolution 2023-002 and **APPROVED,** Agreement 2023-005

- 10.D. Rescind Agreement 2022-146 and approve Grant Agreement Number 22-10687 between the California Department of Public Health and County of Sierra for implementing the 2022-23 through 2026-27 CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP), State General Fund (GF) Pandemic Influenza, ASPR Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP). (PUBLIC HEALTH)

APPROVED, Agreement 2023-006

- 10.E. Minutes from the regular meeting held on December 20, 2022. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)
- 10.F. Minutes from the regular meeting held on January 3, 2023. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR AGENDA

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At the request of the Clerk on behalf of the Assessor, the Board added Item 8.E. to the Regular Agenda as the matter came up following the posting of the agenda and requires action before the next regular meeting.

The Board moved to add Item 8.E. to the Regular Agenda.

8.E. Resolution authorizing extended leave of absence without pay with Board approval, pursuant to Sierra County Code section 3.09.040 (c)(2).

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

The Board moved to approve the Regular Agenda as amended.

APPROVED as amended. Motion: Adams/Roen/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

2. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Adams reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on January 16, 2023, and the committee's recommendation to authorize and fund extra-help and/or over-time in the Auditor's office to cover employee pregnancy leave; direct County Department Managers to develop a list of priorities for the Board's consideration for use of the Local Assistance funding allocation in the amount of \$1.9 million over the next two years, including the Information Systems Department's suggestion to use the funds for a new countywide phone system; and adding a workshop regarding the county service areas (CSA) to the next Board meeting to discuss organization of the CSA's and alternatives for funding the CSA's as the general fund can no longer subsidize the CSA budget shortfalls.

Supervisor Adams also reported that he will be attending the RCRC meeting tomorrow, and he has informed RCRC that he will be bringing forward the mobile response team issue for discussion.

Chair Dryden reported on meeting she attended with the Assemblywoman Dahle's region, which included 11 county CEO's, and having learned that most of the struggles facing Sierra County is the same across the region, including staffing. Chair Dryden also suggested Department Managers inform her of any issues they would like her to address at these meetings.

5. FOREST SERVICE UPDATE

Sierraville District Ranger Rachel Hutchinson provided update on staffing in the district; the status of prescribed burning; the Black Sheep project outside of Sierraville; and a meeting today in Truckee with the Forest Service Chief Randy Moore.

Yuba River District Deputy Ranger Andrew Mishler provided an update on staffing in the district; the end of the comment period on the North Yuba Landscape Project Draft

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EIS; working on the implementation of the Greene Acres project this operating season; and no progress on campground hazard tree work due to weather.

Supervisor Roen requested Deputy Ranger Mishler to reach out to the County Assessor to address an issue.

Beckwourth District Ranger Michael Rahe provided an update on staffing in the district; the status of the community protect project and proceeding with an ESD which allows them emergency authorization to do the work before the NEPA is assigned; and awaiting notification for additional funding for community protect projects in the tune of \$100 million; not having done any prescribed burning on the district yet.

Carson District Ranger Matthew Zumstein indicated he will be available for the February 21st meeting and will report once a month. Ranger Zumstein continued to provide an update on the National Priority Landscape workshop; prescribed burning; the revamping of the Lookout Campground; trash cleanup around Dog Valley; collaborating with American River to do additional restoration work in Dog Valley; issues with Dog Valley Road and potential funding to allow for collaboration with the county; and on staffing in the district.

Ranger Hutchinson commented on the announcement of the North Yuba as a priority landscape and the Forest Service deciding to expand this to allow for more priority landscapes to be included. She is hoping there will be more funding available; however, there might just be an increase in competition for the funding slated for priority landscape projects.

4. DEPARTMENT MANAGERS' REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Director of Behavioral Health reported on the external quality review this week, which is an evaluation of mental health programs currently going on and is a Placer and Sierra County joint mental health plan; the technical assistance audit to be held this July; her decision to pull the Managed Care Plan item from the Consent Agenda as there was only two options to exchange data so this will come back at the next meeting with a third option; and the status of the joint housing project with Plumas County, which is a 32 unit project.

Interim Director of Social Services reported on beginning union negotiations with the IHSS workers soon; the vacancy rate in child welfare is around 50%; and changes to public assistance following the public health emergency that are coming to an end in February, and the state working to get the word out to our community members through mass mailers and text messaging.

Interim Director of Public Health reported on receiving notice that the local oral health evaluation has been accepted and they are currently preparing the six month progress report for oral health; February is National Children's Oral Health Month; cutting back on COVID vaccine clinics; the County Health Officer working on the end of the local public health emergency and the after action report which is due May 1, 2023 to CDPH; and cuts to funding in the Governor's recent budget proposal which impacts public health.

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The Director of Planning reported on the need to also address the civil side of the termination of the local public health emergency; the recent storm damage and summarizing over-time to determine if it was significant enough to declare a local state of emergency; the Local Transportation Commission will meet tomorrow at 10:00 a.m.; a meeting with CalFire at 10:00 a.m. on January 27, 2023; a meeting with the architect for the Sierraville School on January 24, 2023 to conclude the project and put it out to bid; a request from the Sunrise Basin Property Association to include their road in the county road system; the receipt of a certificate of compliance from CARB and concerns with changes by 2024 as the majority of the county's equipment will be determined to be noncompliant; and the upcoming review of the agreement between the county and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District.

6. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH - LEA SALAS

- 6.A. Discussion and direction regarding contracting for Veteran's Services Officer (VSO) and hiring two part-time positions for Veteran's Peer Support Specialist and/or Peer Support Specialist.

The Director of Behavioral Health provided background on the vacant position and the recommendation to contract the Veteran's Service Officer position out and hire extra-help Peer Support Specialists to provide the opportunity to evaluate the ongoing need for the Veteran's Service Officer position.

Chair Dryden commented on how well the prior Veteran's Service Officer served the veterans of Sierra County and encouraged the Director to be creative, as she likes the county having its own representation.

By consensus, the Board directed the Director to move forward with contracting the Veteran's Services Officer position and recruiting and hiring the extra-help positions.

7. PLANNING / BUILDING - TIM BEALS

- 7.A. Discussion and direction on the proposal to create the Feather River Canyons National Monument.

The Director of Planning provided background on the proposal to create the Feather River Canyons National Monument and expressed concerns with their process not involving the county as this does affect portions of the Plumas National Forest north of Canyon Creek and the upper lakes basin area. The Director further recommended requesting the Friends of Plumas Wilderness to make a presentation before the Board.

Supervisor Adams clarified that federal agencies are not involved until this process gets to a certain level.

District Ranger Rahe commented on the process and clarified that he is very much aware of this proposal and is staying on the fence until more information is received.

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Supervisor Roen indicated he would like to make sure we stay cognitive of any comment period on this proposal.

Supervisor Adams suggested the Board direct a letter to the Friends of Plumas Wilderness inviting them to a future meeting to explain what this proposal is all about.

Discussion ensued with the Board.

Following discussion, the Board directed staff to send a letter to the Friends of Plumas Wilderness inviting them to make a presentation at a future Board meeting.

- 7.B. Discussion and direction to staff on the progress of the North Yuba Forest Partnership, the USFS DEIS for the North Yuba Landscape Project, and on meetings and progress made between the County and Forest Service on fire treatment implementation and funding.

The Director of Planning provided brief background on the progress of the North Yuba Landscape Project with respect to pursuing grants that might become available and reviewing things internally to help move things along with respect to fire treatment.

Supervisor Roen indicated that most of the comments received on the DEIS were positive.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the mutual agreement with CalFire which is up this year.

- 7.C. Update on the CPUC Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) Grant Project.

Deputy Director of Planning Brandon distributed a copy of a PowerPoint presentation on the Local Agency Technical Assistance Grant and the Golden State Connect Authority.

Chair Dryden commented that she heard one of the proposals in the new state budget is to eliminate the funding for the broadband infrastructure.

Deputy Director of Planning Brandon Pangman indicated he would look into this.

Deputy Director Pangman continued to review in detail the PowerPoint presentation previously distributed to the Board on the status of Sierra County's Local Technical Assistance (LATA) Grant and the Golden State Connect Authority.

Supervisor Adams expressed appreciation to the Board for allocating \$25,000 of the county's stimulus funding to receive the \$500,000 LATA grant. Supervisor Adams further clarified that the Governor is proposing deferring some of the funding from the \$2 billion in federal funding for a year or two, but it will not impact the \$500,000.

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Sandy Sanders on behalf of the Mountain Messenger questioned if the county would be a subcontractor to the GSCA.

Deputy Director Pangman clarified that the county is the grant recipient and will enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with GSCA who will do all the work. The grant is 100% reimbursable and under the MOU the GSCA is fronting the money, so this won't impact the county general fund.

In response to Mr. Sanders' inquiry, Deputy Director Pangman explained that the \$2 billion is allocated for the "last mile", which is the construction of the infrastructure by the contractors/internet providers.

Discussion ensued with the Board.

No action taken.

8. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

8.A. Discussion/approval of draft response to the Sierra County Grand Jury 2022 Final Report. (SUPERVISOR ADAMS)

Following a brief overview by Supervisor Adams on the requirement to respond under Penal Code section 933, the Board moved to approve the Board of Supervisors' response to the Sierra County Grand Jury 2022 Final Report.

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

8.B. Appointment to fill a vacancy on the Sierra County Fire Protection District #1. (CLERK-RECORDER)

Sierra County Fire Protection District No. 1 Director Tom Archer indicated that he is highly recommending the appointment of Tony Commendatore.

Mr. Commendatore introduced himself to the Board and commented on the importance of being part of the community and supporting it, his EMS experience from running the Ski Patrol at Alpine Meadows, and serving as a member of the Truckee Town Council.

The Board moved to appoint Tony Commendatore to the Sierra County Fire Protection District No. 1.

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

8.C. Appointment to fill a vacancy on the Sierra County Water Resources Committee. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

The Board moved to appoint Duncan Kelly to the Sierra County Water Resources Committee.

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

- 8.D. 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 of the Sierra County Board of Supervisors in accordance with AB 361 and Sierra County Resolution 2021-140.

- 8.E. Resolution authorizing extended leave of absence without pay with Board approval, pursuant to Sierra County Code section 3.09.040 (c)(2).

The Assessor provided background on an employee who had recently exhausted their FMLA leave and having granted an additional 30 days of leave. The Assessor continued to explain there now a need for an additional week of leave, so she is requesting an additional 30 days leave of absence without pay in the event the employee needs additional time.

The Board moved to adopt the resolution authorizing extended leave of absence without pay with Board approval, pursuant to Sierra County Code section 3.09.040 (c)(2).

ADOPTED, Resolution 2023-003. Motion: Adams/Roen/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

9. CLOSED SESSION

- 9.A. Closed session pursuant to Government Code section 54957 - performance review regarding Director of Planning/Public Work.

CLOSED SESSION STATEMENT

Th Board met in closed session from 11:04 a.m. to 11:37 a.m. County Counsel reported direction was given to staff with respect to the performance review regarding the Director of Planning/Public Works.

ADJOURN

At 11:37 a.m., with no further business, Chair Dryden adjourned the meeting.

SHARON DRYDEN, CHAIR
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

HEATHER FOSTER
CLERK OF THE BOARD