



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

Lee Adams, District 1
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Lila Heuer, District 2
P.O. Box 485 - Sierra City, CA 96125 - 916-580-5608 - lheuer@sierracounty.ca.gov
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 January 20, 2026, at 105 Beckwith Street, 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 Dryden

ROLL CALL

Present: Lee Adams, Supervisor, District #1
Lila Heuer, 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
Tony Miller, County Auditor
Brandon Pangman, Director of Planning/Building (Interim
Public Works Director
Sheryll Prinz-McMillan, Behavioral Health Director
Andrew Plett, County Counsel

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

The Board moved to approve the Regular Agenda.

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

12. CONSENT AGENDA

12.A. Agreement between the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) and County of Sierra for participation in county use of specialized training material, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000, from February 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028. (BEHAVIORAL HEALTH)

APPROVED, Agreement 2026-007

12.B. Ratification of the revised job description for the Director of Public Works and Transportation. (PERSONNEL)

12.C. Authorize payment to R & J Joy, Inc. dba Joy Engineering for 487.78 tons of 3/4 AB rock base for disaster recovery project 83115, FEMA disaster 4699, in an amount not to exceed \$9,102.70. (PUBLIC WORKS)

12.D. Addendum to Agreement 2022-019 between the County of Sierra and Tyler Technologies, Inc. for the implementation of electronic recording services, including a one-time cost of \$6,395 and ongoing annual costs of \$3,995. (CLERK-RECORDER)

APPROVED, Agreement 2026-008

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR AGENDA

At the request of the Clerk, Item 6.A. was pulled from the Regular Agenda to allow the Ad Hoc Committee to continue discussions regarding the use of the Sierraville School as a satellite office.

6.A. Discussion/action regarding establishing a satellite office for the County Auditor's Office at the Sierraville School, and authorization to advertise vacant positions with the assigned duty station to be either the Downieville office or the Sierraville School.

The Board moved to approve the Regular Agenda as amended.

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

No reports were given.

4. DEPARTMENT MANAGERS' REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sheriff provided an update on wolf activity in Sierra Valley, reporting that there have been no depredations since three adult wolves were euthanized by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. He noted that wolves remain present in the valley and that regular reports are still being received.

The Sheriff commented on recent media coverage, including PBS footage filmed in the area, and noted that he plans to review the interview footage.

The Sheriff reported meeting with Assemblywoman Heather Hadwick regarding two proposed bills related to wolves: a transparency bill that would require CDFW to share DNA, GPS, and telemetry data with counties, and a public safety bill that would authorize the removal of habituated wolves from communities. He stated that he plans to testify at an upcoming Assembly hearing on wolves, which is expected to include testimony from state sheriffs, wildlife officials, and animal advocacy groups.

The Sheriff also reported that CDFW Director Charlton Bonham has left the agency and that an interim director has been appointed. He noted that he will be meeting with the interim director along with other sheriffs and anticipates no immediate changes in policy, with operations expected to remain status quo.

Supervisor Adams reported that the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) will be meeting the day prior to the Board's next regular meeting on February 2.

The Personnel Director reported that recruitment for Information Systems Administrator positions has been successful, with one candidate starting on the 26th and an offer extended for a second position. She further reported that the County is actively recruiting for multiple vacancies across several departments.

5. FOREST SERVICE UPDATE

Sierraville District Ranger Rachel Hutchinson reported that while winter conditions limit field work, planning and project development activities remain ongoing. She noted the Forest Service is partnering with the American Conservation Experience to assist with hiring front desk and recreation staff for the 2026 season and encouraged local applicants to apply.

Ranger Hutchinson reported that pile burning near Sierraville is continuing as conditions allow and that the Forest Service plans to transition most campground operations to concessionaire management beginning in 2026, with Jackson Meadows remaining under Forest Service operation in the interim. She also reported that over-snow vehicle activity has been high, that snowmelt may begin to limit trail grooming, and emphasized public safety as conditions change.

Beckwourth District Ranger Michael Rahe introduced Laura Schweitzer, newly appointed Forest Supervisor for the Plumas National Forest.

Ms. Schweitzer provided brief introductory remarks, noting her background in forestry and forest management, her Northern California roots, and her commitment to working collaboratively with local governments and partners. She stated that she plans to attend Board meetings periodically and encouraged continued coordination through District staff.

Ranger Rahe reported that several forest management decisions were signed in December, including projects addressing post-Dixie Fire recovery, fuel reduction, and restoration efforts on the east side of the forest and near local communities. He reported progress on multiple large-scale projects, including tributary restoration and prescribed fire activities, noting that approximately 3,100 acres have been treated this year, with additional burning planned as conditions allow. He also reported continued recruitment for fire positions and stated that timber production targets for the coming years remain strong and on track with partner support.

6. AUDITOR - TONY MILLER

- 6.B. Discussion and authorization for the County Auditor to advertise and fill an existing vacancy at the Senior Accountant or Chief Deputy Auditor level.

The County Auditor reported that the vacancy has been advertised for approximately two weeks and that, upon reassessing the department's needs, the position requires a higher level of accounting expertise and skill set.

The Board moved to authorize the County Auditor to advertise and fill an existing vacancy at either the Senior Accountant or Chief Deputy Auditor level.

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

7. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH - SHERYLL PRINZ-MCMILLAN

- 7.A. Authorization to pay an outstanding invoice to Wellspace Hospital in the amount of \$9,554.54 for client services rendered from March through April 2025.

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The Director of Behavioral Health reported that an invoice from WellSpace Hospital for services rendered during March and April 2025 was inadvertently delayed after being caught in an email filter and therefore was not paid within the prior fiscal year. She noted that a valid contract was in place at the time services were provided and remains in effect.

The Director requested Board authorization to pay the outstanding invoice, consistent with County practice for prior fiscal year obligations.

In response to Supervisor Dryden's inquiry, the Director stated that WellSpace Hospital has not expressed concerns regarding the delay, that staff communicated promptly once the issue was identified, and that the provider understood the need to return to the Board for approval. She noted that the County maintains a positive, ongoing relationship with the provider.

The Board moved to authorize payment to Wellspace Hospital in the amount of \$9,554.54 for client services rendered from March through April 2025.

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

- 7.B. Agreement between the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) and County of Sierra for participation in External Quality Review and Performance Improvement Projects, in an amount not to exceed \$17,280 for Fiscal Year 2025/2026.

The Director of Behavioral Health reported that the agreement with the California Mental Health Services Authority will allow the County to utilize an external auditor to assist with newly required state audits, including External Quality Reviews and Performance Improvement Projects, and will support compliance without the need to add staff.

The Board moved to approve the agreement between the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) and County of Sierra for participation in External Quality Review and Performance Improvement Projects, in an amount not to exceed \$17,280 for Fiscal Year 2025/2026.

APPROVED, Agreement 2026-009. Motion: Adams/LeBlanc/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

- 7.C. Agreement between the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) and County of Sierra for participation in the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) program, in an amount not to exceed \$17,280, for Fiscal Year 2025/2026.

The Director of Behavioral Health reported that the agreement with the California Mental Health Services Authority will provide required external review of HEDIS data as part of new statewide audit and quality oversight requirements. She noted that using an

external provider avoids the need to hire additional staff and that, while the agreement includes a not-to-exceed amount, costs are expected to be lower due to the County's size.

The Board moved to approve the agreement between the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) and County of Sierra for participation in the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) program, in an amount not to exceed \$17,280, for Fiscal Year 2025/2026.

APPROVED, Agreement 2026-010. Motion: Adams/Dryden/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

8. PUBLIC WORKS/TRANSPORTATION

- 8.A. Continued discussion and direction regarding the acceptance of green waste and burn policies at the County's solid waste transfer sites.

The Interim Director of Public Works reported no substantive update at this time due to scheduling challenges. He stated that a meeting regarding the Sierra City Transfer Site will occur Thursday with County staff, the Sierra City Fire Department, and the Forest Service, followed by a Solid Waste Task Force meeting on the 28th at the Sierraville School to address broader green waste and burning policies. Staff will return with recommendations.

Supervisor Adams reported visiting the Sierra City site and expressed concern regarding the large-diameter logs and volume of material present, stating it appeared inconsistent with green waste standards and suggesting stronger enforcement is needed.

The Director responded that the current 10-inch diameter limit would prohibit acceptance of such material today and explained that the existing stockpile was largely received prior to that policy. He stated that burning operations have been suspended since last summer, no additional oversized material is being accepted, and staff is evaluating safer alternatives for addressing the existing pile in coordination with the Fire Department and Forest Service.

It was noted that Robinson Enterprises loaned an excavator to assist with moving material. Supervisor Adams indicated he plans to attend the upcoming meeting.

9. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- 9.A. Discussion/action regarding transferring excess funds from the County's self-insured programs through Trindel, and adoption of a resolution authorizing the Auditor to make changes to the 2025/2026 Final Budget. (CHAIR ROEN)

Chair Roen reported that the item stems from prior discussions regarding the County's self-insured programs administered through Trindel Insurance Fund, and the identification of excess, unallocated funds available for potential use.

Supervisor Adams noted that one self-insured program requires a funding adjustment to avoid penalties and would recommend making the adjustment. He added that Trindel has also identified approximately \$770,000 as excess funding within the workers' compensation program. He recommended transferring a portion of the excess funds to County contingencies to ensure accessibility during the budget year, while maintaining adequate reserves.

The Auditor clarified that \$100,000 had already been transferred to address the property program and explained that remaining excess workers' compensation funds are allocated approximately 70% to the General Fund and 30% to Special Revenue Funds.

Following brief discussion, the Board moved to authorize the transfer of \$500,000 in excess self-insurance funds to County contingencies and to adopt the resolution authorizing the Auditor to amend the 2025/2026 Final Budget to reflect the corresponding increase in revenues and contingency appropriations, allocated approximately 70% to the General Fund and 30% to Special Revenue Funds. The Board further directed the Clerk and Auditor to finalize the resolution with the appropriate percentages and fund numbers.

ADOPTED as amended. Resolution 2026-008. Motion: Adams/Dryden/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

9.B. Discussion, clarification, and possible action regarding the current soft hiring freeze. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

The Clerk stated that the item was brought forward following discussion at a Department Head meeting to clarify whether departments may advertise vacant positions during a soft hiring freeze or whether Board approval is required prior to advertising.

The Director of Personnel stated that her preference is not to bifurcate the recruitment process, explaining that advertising positions without the ability or intent to fill them creates inefficiencies, additional workload, and false expectations for applicants. She noted that delays between Board meetings can negatively impact department operations and stated that positions should not be advertised unless there is intent to fill them.

The Clerk of the Board noted that the issue recently arose in connection with a vacancy in the Transportation Department and emphasized the need for consistent direction.

Supervisor Adams acknowledged the need for consistency while also recognizing the operational challenges caused by delays between Board meetings. He suggested

authorizing the Chair to approve advertising on an interim basis when operational needs require, with the action returned to the Board for ratification.

Supervisor Dryden agreed, noting that as a small county without a County Administrative Officer, limited interim authority would assist departments in addressing time-sensitive vacancies.

By consensus, the Board authorized the Chair of the Board to approve interim advertising of vacant positions during a soft hiring freeze when operational needs warrant, with such actions to be ratified at the next regular meeting.

10. TIMED ITEMS

10.A. 10:00 A.M. - 211 DISASTER RELATED-REFERRAL SERVICES

Discussion/approval of agreement between the County of Sierra, through its Public Health Department, and Nevada-Sierra Connecting Point Public Authority for the provision of 211 disaster-related referral services in Sierra County, for the term February 1, 2026, through January 31, 2027, with a one-time implementation cost of \$8,000, an annual cost of \$3,000, and additional fees associated with major incident or disaster activation; and adoption of a resolution authorizing the Auditor to make certain changes to the 2025/2026 Final Budget to fund said services.

Chair Roen introduced the item, noting prior Board discussions regarding implementation of 211 services in Sierra County following community concerns identified during recent emergency evacuations.

Supervisor Dryden provided background on prior presentations by Nevada-Sierra Connecting Point and explained that earlier consideration was delayed due to budget uncertainty. She stated that the current proposal focuses on emergency-only 211 services and requested input from Public Health and staff regarding implementation and funding.

The Director of Public Health reported that 211 services align with Public Health and emergency preparedness functions and noted strong community support through the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) communication workgroup. She stated that the initial focus would be emergency response only, with potential consideration of expanded services in future fiscal years.

The Risk Manager reported that the one-time \$8,000 implementation cost could be funded through Trindel Insurance Fund safety-related funds, noting the expenditure is appropriate and one-time in nature.

The Clerk of the Board clarified that the agreement includes a one-time \$8,000 implementation cost and a \$3,000 annual maintenance cost. She further clarified that Trindel would pay the \$8,000 directly to the contractor, and therefore no revenue adjustment resolution was required for that portion. She noted that Board direction was needed to identify the funding source for the \$3,000 annual cost.

Supervisor Adams expressed conditional support for emergency-only services, emphasizing the importance of maintaining realistic expectations, avoiding dependency on County services for non-emergency needs, and carefully considering long-term obligations.

Supervisor Heuer noted that 211 services provide call tracking and reporting, allowing the County to monitor usage and effectiveness.

Supervisor Dryden emphasized that 211 would primarily serve residents unfamiliar with local emergency systems and would reduce pressure on Sheriff dispatch during emergencies. She noted that education and outreach would be supported by community partners rather than County staff.

The Sheriff stated he was not opposed to the service, noting its potential benefit during large-scale emergencies, while cautioning that utilization may be limited outside of major events and that public education would be critical. He also noted infrastructure limitations in some areas during disasters.

The Auditor raised questions regarding responsibility for information management, messaging, and long-term costs, and suggested continued emphasis on emergency preparedness education.

The Chief Technology Officer noted that the County has internal phone system capabilities that could supplement emergency communications but acknowledged that 211 provides a simpler, widely recognized option during emergencies.

Following further discussion, the Board determined that the proposal would be limited to emergency-only 211 services, with no expansion at this time.

The Board moved to approve the agreement to implement emergency-only 211 disaster-related referral services, authorized payment of the \$8,000 one-time implementation cost through Trindel safety funds, and directed staff to fund the \$3,000 annual maintenance cost from General Fund Contingencies, with future funding considerations to be reviewed by the Finance Committee.

APPROVED, Agreement 2026-011. Motion: Adams/Dryden/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

- 9.C. Discussion and possible action regarding the Grand Jury's request for dedicated meeting spaces and an increase to the current Grand Jury meeting rate. (CHAIR ROEN)

Supervisor Adams stated that increasing the Grand Jury meeting rate from \$25 to \$50 is reasonable to reflect current costs and encourage participation, and expressed appreciation for the role of the Grand Jury. He reported that discussions have occurred

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regarding meeting space options, including the courthouse boardroom, courtroom, and other County facilities, and suggested further coordination among the Clerk, Court Executive Officer, and staff to finalize logistics.

Shannon Pedotti, Court Executive Officer, advised that courtroom use is feasible but generally limited to business hours and subject to court scheduling needs, confidentiality considerations, and building access outside normal hours. She stated the court is willing to coordinate scheduling in advance and offered a secure, locked file cabinet near the Clerk's counter for Grand Jury document storage.

Supervisor Adams noted that after-hours access has been provided in the past for other public bodies and suggested similar arrangements could be made for the Grand Jury.

Staff and Board members identified additional potential meeting locations, including the Sheriff's Office conference room and the Sierraville School, and agreed to continue working collaboratively to identify suitable meeting and storage solutions for the Grand Jury.

The Board moved to Board directed staff to continue coordination with the Court and County departments regarding Grand Jury meeting space and storage options, and expressed consensus support for increasing the Grand Jury meeting rate from \$25 to \$50.

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

9.D. Resolution proclaiming January 2026 as Grand Jury Awareness Month.
(CHAIR ROEN)

The Board moved to adopt the resolution proclaiming January 2026 as Grand Jury Awareness Month.

ADOPTED, Resolution 2026-009. Motion: Adams/LeBlanc/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

10.B. 10:30AM NEW 2026 PROBATION LAWS

Discussion regarding new 2026 adult and juvenile probation laws.

The Chief Probation Officer provided an informational overview of significant adult and juvenile probation-related legislation taking effect in 2026, highlighting statutory changes impacting county justice operations, law enforcement practices, juvenile justice, labor requirements, and public meeting laws. He noted that many of the changes impose new mandates on counties, some potentially subject to state reimbursement.

Supervisor Adams thanked the Chief Probation Officer for the update, acknowledged the increasing volume of state mandates affecting counties, and

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expressed appreciation for the guaranteed minimum juvenile justice realignment funding level.

11. CLOSED SESSION

- 11.A. Closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2) - conference with legal counsel - anticipated litigation - 1 case.
- 11.B. Closed session pursuant to Government Code section 54957 – Public Appointment or Employment – Director of Transportation.
- 11.C. Closed session pursuant to Government Code section 54957 – Public Appointment: Interim County Assessor.

CLOSED SESSION STATEMENT

The Board met in closed session from 11:08 a.m. to 12:24 p.m. County Counsel reported that no reportable action was taken on Item 11.A., and that direction was provided to staff on Items 11.B. and 11.C.

ADJOURN

At 12:24 p.m., with no further business, Chair Roen adjourned the meeting.

PAUL ROEN, CHAIR
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

HEATHER FOSTER
CLERK OF THE BOARD