



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

Lee Adams, Vice-Chair, District 1

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Lila Heuer, 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, District 5

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The Sierra County Board of Supervisors met in regular session commencing at 9:00 a.m. on May 21, 2024, 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, Vice Chair, District #1
Lila Heuer, Supervisor, District #2
Paul Roen, Supervisor, Chair, District #3
Terry LeBlanc, Supervisor, District #4
Sharon Dryden, Supervisor, District #5

Staff: Heather Foster, County Clerk-Recorder
Rhetta Vander Ploeg, County Counsel
Van Maddox, Auditor/Treasurer Tax Collector
Bryan Davey, Public Works/Transportation
Brandon Pangman, Planning/Building
Sheryll Prinz-McMillan, Behavioral Health
Mike Fisher, Sheriff/Coroner
Chuck Henson, Chief Probation Officer
Rhonda Grandi, Assistant Director of Public Health
Lori McGee, Assistant Director of Social Services

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APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

The Board moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

12. CONSENT AGENDA

12.A. Resolution authorizing the Sierra County Auditor to transfer 10% of the Social Services Realignment for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 to Public Health Realignment pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 17600.20 in the amount of \$67,271.70. (SOCIAL SERVICES)

ADOPTED, Resolution 2024-074

12.B. Agreement between The Regents of the University of California, on behalf of its Davis campus Continuing and Professional Education (the "CPE") and the County of Sierra for ten (10) units of training not to exceed \$39,525. (SOCIAL SERVICES)

APPROVED, Agreement 2024-056

12.C. Resolution authorizing the Chair of the Governing Board of Nevada-Sierra Connecting Point Public Authority as the employer of record to submit on behalf of the County of Sierra authorization implementing the wage increase for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Independent Providers to the State Department of Social Services. (SOCIAL SERVICES)

ADOPTED, Resolution 2024-075

12.D. Lease Agreement between the Elorza Family Trust and Sierra County Human Services for 350 Third Street in Loyalton, California in an amount not to exceed \$33, 584.40 for Fiscal Years 2024/2025 through 2028/2029. (PUBLIC HEALTH)

APPROVED, Agreement 2024-057

12.E. Resolution approving a Professional Services Agreement between the County of Sierra and California Association of Environmental Health Administrators for a Registered Environmental Health Specialist not to exceed \$50,000 and authorizing the Assistant Director to sign the agreement. (PUBLIC HEALTH)

ADOPTED, Resolution 2024-076 and **APPROVED,** Agreement 2024-058

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- 12.F. Resolution approving Plumas County Agreement No. PARTB2425SCPH, Ryan White Part B, and authorizing the Public Health Assistant Director to sign the agreement and all invoices to secure funds not to exceed \$3,000. (PUBLIC HEALTH)

ADOPTED, Resolution 2024-077 and **APPROVED**, Agreement 2024-059

- 12.G. Resolution approving the Statement of Work Agreement between Summit Technologies and Sierra County Public Health for the Grant Expenditure Accelerator for Salesforce, as built for Sierra County Public Health, and authorizing the Assistant Director of Public Health to sign the agreement not to exceed \$50,000. (PUBLIC HEALTH)

ADOPTED, Resolution 2024-078 and **APPROVED**, Agreement 2024-060

- 12.H. Participation Agreement Between California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) and Sierra County to participate in the Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification Program. (BEHAVIORAL HEALTH)

APPROVED, Agreement 2024-061

- 12.I. Professional Services Agreement with Avalex, Inc. for Solid Waste Consulting Services for 2024/2025 Fiscal Year in an amount not to exceed \$88,523.00. (PUBLIC WORKS)

APPROVED, Agreement 2024-062

- 12.J. Resolution adopting the Sierra County Heat Illness Prevention Plan. (PERSONNEL)

ADOPTED, Resolution 2024-079

- 12.K. Minutes from the regular meeting held on April 2, 2024. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR AGENDA

The Board moved to approve the Regular Agenda.

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

REGULAR AGENDA

2. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

At 9:03 a.m. Chair Roen opened and closed the public comment opportunity with no members of the public addressing the Board.

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3. COMMITTEE REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Adams reported on the RCRC meeting held last week and the Governor's office request for RCRC to put together a podcast regarding local officials getting appointed to state commissions, which he has been asked to moderate for on June 13th; a trip to the Alleghany Library with Supervisor Dryden and the Assistant Director of Personnel; working last weekend on the property the county deeded to the Cemetery District which contained 72 paupers graves; and the CPUC denying AT&T's application pertaining to rural landlines.

Supervisor LeBlanc reported on the upcoming Recycle Relics Car Show.

Supervisor Dryden thanked Supervisor Adams and Judi Behlke, Assistant Director of Personnel, for the tour of the west side of the county.

Chair Roen reported on the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District workshop pertaining to the \$5 million grant available and uses for the funding.

4. DEPARTMENT MANAGERS' REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Director of Transportation reported on the status of 2017 FEMA project reimbursements; anticipating the completion of the Downieville Community Hall project by mid-June; the re-bid of the Sierraville School project closing tomorrow and still awaiting word from Congressman Kiley's office regarding funding for the project; working to have bids out soon for the Calpine Community Hall project; one bid received for the Nevada Street project; one qualified proposal received for the Mountain House project which was too high, so staff is working on negotiating with the Forest Service on the funding amounts for the project; received the good neighbor agreement for work on Lavezzola Road and Highway 49; the Truckee Meadow Water District and Forest Service having approached the county to construct a bridge to replace the low water crossing on Independence Lake Road; and having hired a new Transportation Planner, Kaylon Hall.

The Director of Planning reported on the completion of the Broadband Strategic Plan which is available on the Planning Department's website; the Planning Commission having held a public hearing on the Short-Term Rental ordinance amendments last Thursday and requesting the Board of Supervisors to set a public hearing; the completion of the general plan housing element update which is now available for public comments; and the status of the general plan zoning code update which they broke up into phases so could they could take advantage of the affordable housing grants.

The Sheriff provided an update on wildlife management in Sierra County and the letter he submitted to the Director of the California Department Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) pertaining to the bear issues on west side of county; changing how his office is reporting wildlife incidents to CDFW to make sure all reports of incidents are received by CDFW; and meeting with Assemblywoman Megan Dahle to discuss the wildlife management issue further.

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Chair Roen commented on CDFW considering outlawing bear hunting for a couple of years.

The Sheriff continued to comment on wildlife issues and working on creating a website that will be all things wildlife management, which will include how to report to CDFW and educate the public on this issue.

In response to Supervisor Heuer, the Sheriff reported that the injured mountain lion is still alive, but they haven't had any other reports since last Saturday. The Sheriff added that the bear in Sierra City that was breaking into residences hasn't escalated to a public safety issue.

In response to Supervisor Dryden's inquiry regarding communications with the State Gray Wolf Coordinator, Axel Hunnicutt pertaining to the wolves in the Sierra Valley, the Sheriff clarified that he has met with Mr. Hunnicutt, however this is a federal issue so there is nothing that allows local law enforcement to act on this issue.

The Assistant Director of Social Services reported on the security upgrades to Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards to include a chip to prevent fraud starting August 1st and vendors within the county needing to update their equipment by July 1st.

The Director of Behavioral Health reported on hiring a new MSHA Coordinator.

The Assistant Director of Public Health reported on the California Department of Public Health Vector Control Division conducting tests in the county.

The Chief Probation Officer reported on filling the Probation Specialist position; the resignation of a Deputy Probation Officer and the current employee agreeing to stay on part-time until the position is filled; and significant hits to the CCP budget including a \$100,000 loss of AB 109 research and incentive funds; the loss of \$15,000 due to the "SB 678 stabilization", and another \$15,000 loss from the PRSC stabilization account which has to do with Proposition 57.

The Assistant Director of Personnel provided an update on department staffing and the Trindel Audit scheduled for June 5th.

5. FOREST SERVICE UPDATE

Sierraville District Ranger Rachel Hutchinson provided an update on the status of projects in the district and the status of campgrounds opening.

Yuba River District Ranger Thomas Parrack provided an update the status of campgrounds opening; trail clearing; the status of the Sand Pond boardwalk replacement project; and looking for funding sources for the shared facility with the Downieville Fire Department.

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Supervisor Adams thanked Ranger Parrack and others for meeting with Congressman Kiley regarding funding for the Downieville Fire Department.

Chair Roen commented on the good neighbor agreement.

6. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

6.A. Appointment to the Pliocene Ridge Community Services District to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2024. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

The Board moved to appoint Oregon Tenney to the Pliocene Ridge Community Services District to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2024.

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

6.B. Appointment to the Sierra County Local Child Care Planning Council (LPC) at the discretion of the Sierra County Board of Supervisors and the County Superintendent of Schools. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

The Board moved to appoint Candy Corcoran to the Sierra County Local Child Care Planning Council (LPC) at the discretion of the Sierra County Board of Supervisors and the County Superintendent of Schools.

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

6.C. Appointment to the Sierra County Children and Families Commission (First 5) to fill a vacancy. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

The Board moved to appoint Sheryll Prinz-McMillan to the Sierra County Children and Families Commission (First 5).

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

Candy Corcoran, Executive Director commented on the importance of the recent appointments to the Children and Families Commission and the LPC and thanked the Board for their continued support.

11. TIMED ITEMS

11.A. 10:00 A.M. - PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCY

Appointment to the Sierra County Planning Commission to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2024.

Comments were received from applicants Sandy Sanders and David Goicoechea.

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Supervisor Adams commented on the Board attempting to geographically represent the entire county and suggested this appointment come from Supervisorial Districts 3, 4 or 5 as the Board recently had appointments to Supervisorial Districts 1 and 2.

Supervisor LeBlanc concurred with Supervisor Adams' suggestion.

Supervisor Dryden expressed her appreciation to both applicants.

The Board moved to appoint David Goicoechea to the Sierra County Planning Commission to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2024.

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

7. SHERIFF/CORONER - MIKE FISHER

7.A. Resolution authorizing the Auditor to make certain changes to the 2023/2024 Final Budget increasing wages and service and supplies in the Sheriff's budget. (4/5th affirmative vote required)

The Sheriff provided detailed background on the request to increase the 2023/2024 budget due to having to backfill positions as a result of five of his employees being off due to various medical reasons, increased calls for service, the need for overtime shifts, and reimbursements from OES for purchases of the OHV trailer and POST for the police academy trainings that were not built into his service and supply budgets.

The Sheriff continued to comment on the proposed changes to the 2024/2025 budget which will properly identify the comings and goings of reimbursements and unanticipated costs that often occur.

Supervisor Adams indicated that most of this request is explainable, however this means there is \$95,000 less for everyone next year and would remind all department managers to review their budgets on a regular basis.

Supervisor Dryden expressed her appreciation to the Finance Committee for reviewing this request.

The Board moved to adopt the authorizing the Auditor to make certain changes to the 2023/2024 Final Budget increasing wages and service and supplies in the Sheriff's budget.

ADOPTED, Resolution 2024-080. Motion: Adams/Dryden/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

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8. PUBLIC WORKS/TRANSPORTATION - BRYAN DAVEY

- 8.A. Resolution certifying and adopting Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for Plumbago Road over Kanaka Creek Bridge (13C0051) Replacement Project, Federal Aid Project BRLO-5913(058).

The Director of Transportation provided background on the project and comments received from the State Water Board and California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and not receiving any opposition to the project.

The Board moved to adopt the resolution certifying and adopting Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for Plumbago Road over Kanaka Creek Bridge (13C0051) Replacement Project, Federal Aid Project BRLO-5913(058).

ADOPTED, Resolution 2024-081. Motion: Adams/LeBlanc/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

9. PLANNING / BUILDING - BRANDON PANGMAN

- 9.A. Introduction and waive first reading of an ordinance amending Sierra County Code 8.12.050 implementing fire regulations and restrictions on private property in Sierra County.

The Director of Planning provided considerable background on the proposed amendments to the fire restriction ordinance, including adding when the US Forest Service declares fire restrictions on public lands this would trigger restrictions on private property in the county, and a mechanism for lifting the restrictions by the US Forest Service or by the Board of Supervisors in order to retain local control.

The Director continued to address comments received by Fire Prevention Officer Robert Haug and Sierraville District Ranger Hutchinson regarding concerns over the proposed language and whether the county is asking the US Forest Service to have some jurisdiction over private property or inspections, and having assured the US Forest Service that is not what the proposed ordinance states.

The Director further explained that a "Purpose and Intent" statement was added to the ordinance to distinguish this ordinance from other fire restrictions and a section to clarify what specifically triggers the stages/restrictions "whenever the US Forest Service suspends burning and/or enacts fire restrictions within Sierra County". The Director also referred to the limited exceptions within the ordinance for commercial grade equipment, commercial or personally operated propane heating devices, organized camps and campgrounds and personal devices/propane barbeques or smokers.

Chair Roen commented on the need to clarify what the fire restriction levels are.

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Sierraville District Ranger Hutchinson indicated the district tries to tailor restrictions per the conditions and to make them as least restrictive as possible at first depending on the situation, i.e. on how dry it is or how tied up their resources are. Ranger Hutchinson also clarified that restrictions are not always the same between national forests.

In response to Supervisor Adams' inquiry, Ranger Hutchinson clarified that campfires in the general forest (outside an organized campground) are the first to be restricted.

Supervisor Adams indicated that he likes the idea that the US Forest Service campfire restriction triggers this ordinance and suggested tying this to the Tahoe National Forest (TNF) trigger, rather than the Plumas National Forest (PNF) as the TNF consists of 80-90% of the federal lands in Sierra County. Supervisor Adams further clarified that the county is loaning the trigger of the restrictions to the Forest Service and can pull the restrictions back whenever it wants to.

The Sheriff indicated that he would like the full Board of Supervisors to implement the restrictions on private property based on real time information presented from the Forest Service, local fire departments, etc.

The Director reiterated the Sheriff's recommendations wherein the enactment of the ordinance would be a declaration by the Board of Supervisors rather than the US Forest Service, and phasing in restrictions.

Discussion ensued with the Board.

The Director further commented on the changes in the enforcement provisions of the proposed ordinance and the need to determine whether a violation would be a misdemeanor, infraction, or wobbler.

The Sheriff suggested it should be a violation that mirrors state law.

The Director added that if this is to remain as misdemeanor as it has in the past, the enforcement provisions of the proposed ordinance should refer to Section 1.16.020.

Discussion ensued regarding changes to the ordinance and concerns with the timeline for the ordinance to take effect if additional changes are made.

Following further discussion and by consensus, the Board directed staff to take this back to the ad hoc committee to further clarify that the restrictions would be triggered by the Tahoe National Forest and determine whether a violation would be an infraction or misdemeanor.

10. CLOSED SESSION

- 10.A. Closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(2) - conference with legal counsel - anticipated litigation - 1 case.

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- 10.B. Closed session pursuant to Government Code section 54957 - performance review regarding County Counsel.

CLOSED SESSION STATEMENT

The Board met in closed session from 11:20 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. County Counsel reported that no action was taken with respect to Items 10.A. and 10.B.

13. CORRESPONDENCE LOG

- 13.A. Application for Alcoholic Beverage License submitted by Sierra Valley Bar & Grill.

No action taken.

ADJOURN

At 12:11 p.m., with no further business, Chair Roen adjourned the meeting.

PAUL ROEN, CHAIR
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

HEATHER FOSTER
CLERK OF THE BOARD