



**MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF MONO  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Regular Meetings: The First, Second, and Third Tuesday of each month. Location of meeting is specified just below.

MEETING LOCATION Board Chambers, 2nd Fl., County Courthouse, 278 Main St., Bridgeport, CA 93517

**Regular Meeting  
March 7, 2017**

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9:06 AM Meeting Called to Order by Chair of the Board Corless.

*Supervisors Present: Corless, Gardner, Johnston, Peters, and Stump.  
Supervisors Absent: None.*

*Break: 10:20 a.m.  
Reconvene: 10:30 a.m.  
Break: 11:55 a.m.  
Reconvene: 12:09 p.m.  
Closed Session: 2:20 p.m.  
Reconvene: 2:50 p.m.  
Adjourn: 5:50 p.m.*

**The Mono County Board of Supervisors stream all of their meetings live on the internet and archives them afterward. To listen to any meetings from June 2, 2015 forward, please go to the following link:**

**<http://www.monocounty.ca.gov/meetings>**

Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Gardner.

**1. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Board Minutes**

Departments: Clerk of the Board

Approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 7, 2017.

**Stump moved; Peters seconded**

**Vote: 5 yes; 0 no**

**M17-46**

## B. Board Minutes

Departments: Clerk of the Board

Approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 14, 2017, as corrected.

**Johnston moved; Gardner seconded**

**Vote: 5 yes; 0 no**

**M17-47**

**Supervisor Johnston:**

Pg 8 of 13, under item B, add:

- Discussed the 'vision' for how to proceed with future office in the South County.
- Believes whatever we do in future, it should be integrated with 1<sup>st</sup> floor retail.
- Advocates for "Civic Center Mall" alternative.
- Submitted concepts to staff on reuse of Sierra Center Mall
- This snow year really brings home the need for underground parking.
- Questioned the assumptions in the purchase option, in particular, the \$7m in needed improvements
- Talked about conditions and needed improvements
- Noted that Counsel, DA, CAO office all relatively new
- Expressed concerns that negotiations haven't really taken place, i.e., no subsequent negotiations to SCM's \$1.75/sf recent proposal.
- Still believes a purchase option can be a cost effective approach; agrees with continuing negotiations with SCM but also looking at McFlex as a possible backup option.

**Supervisor Stump:**

- Pg 9 of 13, skate park item, comment should read "The Planning Commission has approved the concept, but will still have to approve the final design".

## C. Board Minutes

Departments: Clerk of the Board

Approve minutes of the Special Meeting held on February 15, 2017, as corrected.

**Gardner moved; Peters seconded**

**Vote: 5 yes; 0 no**

**M17-48**

**Supervisor Stump:**

- Pg 6 of 6, his comment, third bullet point needs to be stricken.

**Supervisor Johnston:**

- Pg 6 of 6, add to his comment: Asked about establishing a county wide cemetery district that allows free plots to citizens.
- Pg 3 of 6, third bullet, cost correction

**Supervisor Corless:**

- Pg 5 of 6, speaker should be "Paul Burdeno, leader of volunteer group for Mt. Morrison Cemetery.

#### D. Board Minutes

Departments: Clerk of the Board

Approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 21, 2017.

**Johnston moved; Stump seconded**

**Vote: 5 yes; 0 no**

**M17-49**

### 3. RECOGNITIONS - NONE

### 4. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

#### Supervisor Corless:

- Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System JPA meeting 2/22
- Yosemite NP visitation up dramatically in 2016 to 5.2 million visitors
- YARTS ridership up for the year
- Online reservation system open, some 1500 reservations as of meeting date
- Actions taken: accepted audit report, approved formation of capital replacement fund, bylaw changes
- Full report from NACo conference/DC on 3/14
- Town of Mammoth Lakes: National Guard in town assisting with snow removal—thank you; Mammoth Creek Park facilities planning underway this week; draft “walk, bike, ride” report available for comment at [connectmammothlakes.com](http://connectmammothlakes.com) through 3/31

#### Supervisor Gardner:

- I attended with Supervisor Corless the quarterly meeting of the YARTS Board on Feb. 22. The agenda is available on the YARTS website. One critical item facing the Board is securing funding to support YARTS in the future. As we continue to encourage our Eastern Sierra visitors to get out of their cars to reduce congestion and energy use and impact, we must find ways to increase revenue for alternative transportation such as YARTS. I rode the YARTS bus last summer to Yosemite from June Lake, and I found it extremely convenient and comfortable. I look forward to working on this issue further.
- I also attended last week the National Association of Counties Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. with Supervisor Corless. We attended NACo policy committee meetings, and met with both Congressional and Federal agency officials. We will have a full report on the Conference and our activities at our next meeting, but I would summarize my trip by saying I was reminded once again that leadership is not defined as the loudest voice or sharpest tongue, but by the ability to listen carefully to one another, to seek common ground, and to think of new ways to achieve progress that truly improves the quality of life for everyone.
- I would also note June Lake held its Winter Festival last Saturday, which included a Winter Triathlon, a snowmobile rally, and a snow sculpture contest. While I did not participate in the first two activities, I did look at the snow sculptures, and they were spectacular!

#### Supervisor Johnston:

- Spoke with APCD staff (Kiddoo and others) who observed and inspected the new Biomass Boiler. They were quite impressed and recognized our staff's efforts in getting it on line. They have approved it for operation.
- Attended the Mammoth Lakes Housing meeting last night; working on survey for affordable housing related to funding from Mammoth Mountain.

- Spent a lot of time reviewing both the Short Term Rental issue and the Conway Ranch issue both of which are on the agenda for today.

**Supervisor Peters:**

- Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> Attended AV RPAC
- Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Attended a Command Briefing at MWTC
- Many Ongoing Infrastructure Projects including communication network
- Civilian Engineer Andy
- Discussed understanding of EMS transport – MOU
- Critical need for Mill Canyon Road access
- Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> Met with Chairman of the Bridgeport Indian Colony John Glazier and Housing administrator Jimmy Ybarra
- Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> Met with representatives of the Antelope Valley Native American Community regarding Camp Antelope
- Tues 28<sup>th</sup> Met with an interested member of AV community in commercial Cannabis
- Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Spent the morning reading to the 5-6 and 7-8 classes as part of the Reading across America Program
- Tues 28<sup>th</sup> attended the Awards banquet for CHS Basketball
- Sat 4<sup>th</sup> attended monthly business meeting of AVL
- Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Attended the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July fundraiser in BP which raised approx. \$16,820 to help pay for the 20k plus Free Fireworks display
- Upcoming events NMCC & CERT Dinner March 17<sup>th</sup> Corn Beef and Cabbage
- April 1<sup>st</sup> Cow Pasture Golf
- Tonight is the CSA#5 meeting

**Supervisor Stump:**

- Had several phone conversations with PUC staff about the Hammil Valley landline phone situation. PUC staff has initiated a complaint. They also have agreed that if names and addresses of local residents are submitted that they will consider each submittal as a separate complaint which will give the situation greater importance.
- 3-4 Attended a workshop with the Tri Valley Water Commission on how to handle the SGMA. Their next regular meeting is on 3-15 and at that meeting I expect that the Commission will vote to file the application to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency. This at least will keep the State, and its absurdly onerous fee structure, from moving in as a GSA. The Inyo Board action of 2-21 had the same goal for Inyo County only. Mono County will also need to file. It is apparent that fees will be imposed on all water users in the medium basin unless those users fall under the two acre feet annual pumping category which is exempt. How large the fees are could impact agricultural production in a negative way and cause the County to lose property tax revenue. I expect that at least one person from Inyo County will attend the 3-15 meeting to advocate for their proposal regarding a GSA. This situation is complex and does not lend itself to perfunctory comments. If anyone wants more information please make an appointment with me.

## 5. COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

**Leslie Chapman:**

- Met twice recently with current landlords; will meet again Thursday. Will keep you posted.
- Toured biomass boiler; very impressive. We have some skilled craftspeople on our staff. Scheduling "April 4 for a Board tour of the boiler
- Continue regular weather briefings. Focus is turning to flooding and preventive
- Meeting with DSA and negotiations team. Tentative agreement with them, presented to Board soon.
- At the Department head meeting last Wednesday, Clerk Shannon Kendall gave a good presentation on agenda procedures. Also discussed strategic plan update, coming to the Board on April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, attended Advanced Negotiations training with CSAC.

- Yesterday participated in Financial Advisor interviews with Mmth unified school district.

**Supervisor Johnston:**

- The biomass boiler is an item of state interest. Should we have a ribbon cutting? Invite all those who got it all started together, show the results of their efforts. Fire Chief from Mammoth Lakes began this.

## 6. DEPARTMENT/COMMISSION REPORTS

**Shannon Kendall, County Clerk/Recorder:**

- Recent full recruitment for Assistant County Clerk position, panel was Kammi Foote the Inyo County Recorder, Christy Milovich, and Dave Butters. She was an observer. Tough process, and Helen Nunn was successful candidate.

**Ingrid Braun, Sheriff:**

- Last week we were host county for World Police and Fire games, good turnout, very well attended.

**Nancy Mahannah:**

- Her position is funded by tax on tobacco products. Prop 56 will go into effect soon. As a result of increased tax, anticipated going from \$150k to \$369k annual revenue.

**Gerald Frank:**

- Feb 28<sup>th</sup>, they added a page to County website to collect data from damage called "Have You Experienced Substantial Flood/Snow Damage?". Explained how collecting this data may help Mono County qualify for grants. TOML has been collecting surveys and economic injury information for a few weeks, he will ask them to send him their information as well.

**Supervisor Stump:**

- Recommended that the Finance dept work with the Assessor's office to collaborate this data.

## 7. CONSENT AGENDA

(All matters on the consent agenda are to be approved on one motion unless a board member requests separate action on a specific item.)

### A. Mono County Children's Medical Services (CMS) Plan Fiscal Year 2016-2017

Departments: Health Department

Proposed contract with California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Children's Medical Services (CMS) branch pertaining to the CMS Plan Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

**Action:** Approve County entry into proposed contract with DHCS and authorize the BOS Chairperson to execute said contract on behalf of the County through signing the California Children Services (CCS) and Child Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP) Certification Statements.

**Johnston moved; Peters seconded**

**Vote: 5 yes; 0 no**

**M17-50**

**B. 2017-2018 Boating Safety and Enforcement Financial Aid Program Agreement Board Resolution**

Departments: Mono County Sheriff's Office

2017-2018 Boating Safety and Enforcement Financial Aid Program Agreement Resolution.

**Action:** Adopt Resolution #17-18, Authorizing Mono County's participation in the FY 2017-2018 Boating Safety and Enforcement Financial Aid Program Agreement and designating the Sheriff-Coroner, Emergency Services Coordinator, and the Sheriff's Finance Officer as authorized agents to sign for and administer Boating Safety and Enforcement Financial Aid Program Agreement. Provide any desired direction to staff.

**R17-18**

**Johnston moved; Peters seconded**

**Vote: 5 yes; 0 no**

**C. Treasury Transaction Report for 1/31/2017**

Departments: Finance

Treasury Transaction Report for the month ending 1/31/2017.

**Action:** Approve the Treasury Transaction Report for the month ending 1/31/2017.

**Johnston moved; Peters seconded**

**Vote: 5 yes; 0 no**

**M17-51**

**D. Safety Seat Checkup Proclamation**

Departments: Clerk of the Board

Stephanie M. Tombrello, LCSW, Executive Director, SafetyBeltSafe USA, has requested the Board adopt a proclamation recognizing the week of April 2 - April 8, 2017, as Safety Seat Checkup Week.

**Action:** Approve proclamation recognizing the week of April 2 - April 8, 2017, as Safety Seat Checkup Week.

**Johnston moved; Peters seconded**

**Vote: 5 yes; 0 no**

**M17-52**

**E. Wheeler Crest Design Review Committee Appointments**

Departments: Community Development-Planning

Consider Supervisor Stump's recommendations regarding reappointment of one new member and one existing member to the Wheeler Crest Design Review Committee.

**Action:** Appoint one new member, Bob Weiland, and re-appoint one existing member, Judy Beard, to the Wheeler Crest Design Review Committee, as recommended by Supervisor Stump.

**Johnston moved; Peters seconded**

**Vote: 5 yes; 0 no**

**M17-53**

#### F. **Appointments in Lieu of Election**

Departments: Clerk of the Board

Appointment of Directors of Special Districts in Lieu of Election. The following Special Districts have vacancies to be filled: Birchim Community Services District and Wheeler Crest Community Services District. These Special Districts have submitted names for appointment/reappointment, as outlined in the staff report. These terms will expire on 11/30/2020. The Board of Supervisors is the governing body under Elections Code Section 10515 to make these appointments.

**Action:** Appoint Robin Davis to Birchim Community Services District and William Dunlap to Wheeler Crest Community Services District, as recommended, to fill special district board vacancies.

**Johnston moved; Peters seconded**

**Vote: 5 yes; 0 no**

**M17-54**

#### G. **Change to Allocation List for Public Health Department**

Departments: Finance, Public Health

Proposed resolution amending the allocation list to reflect an increase to the full time equivalent (FTE) of the Director of Nursing from 0.8 FTE to 0.9 FTE in the Public Health Department.

**Action:** Adopt proposed resolution #R17-19, Amending the Allocation List to reflect an increase to the full time equivalent (FTE) of the Director of Nursing from 0.8 FTE to 0.9 FTE in the Public Health Department.

**Johnston moved; Peters seconded**

**Vote: 5 yes; 0 no**

**R17-19**

#### 8. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

All items listed are located in the Office of the Clerk of the Board, and are available for review. Direction may be given to staff regarding, and/or the Board may discuss, any item of correspondence listed on the agenda.

##### A. **Letter from Terry Lee re Immigration**

Departments: Clerk of the Board

Letter from Terry Lee of Swall Meadows regarding concerns over immigration enforcement.

**B. Letter from Craig Schrager re Sierra Center Mall**

Departments: Clerk of the Board

Letter from Craig Schrager DDS to the Board of Supervisors regarding his experience as a tenant at Sierra Center Mall.

**9. REGULAR AGENDA - MORNING**

**A. Update on Racial & Ethnic Disparity Grant**

Departments: Probation and Behavioral Health

(Karin Humiston, Robin Roberts, Stacie Casabian, Jazmin Puga-Sosa, Sal Montenez, Sofia Flores) - Presentation by Karin Humiston and Robin Roberts regarding update of the Racial and Ethnic Disparity Grant and review of future changes.

**Action:** None (informational only). Provide any desired direction to staff.

**Karin Humiston:**

- Introduced her power point (included in additional documents on our website)
- Juvenile Justice Points of Contact
- 4 year grant, we are in year 3. Total amount is \$150k for each year.

**Stacie Casabian:**

- Continued with power point
- Phase 1, Burns Institute
- Phase 2
- Implicit Bias Training
- Phase 3

**Jazmin Pugo-Sosa:**

- Continued with Power Point
- Data Analysis

**Robin Roberts:**

- Data Analysis.
- Clubhouse Live program
- 6<sup>th</sup> of April, open house 3-6 pm to meet staff and participants. One goal is to get youth involved in outdoor activities, civic opportunities, help them become engaged.

**Sal Montanez:**

- Clarified days and hours of program in other communities.
- At previous events, let the kids assess their own preferences. Hosted three main campouts last summer in local area. June Lake, Benton, and took almost 20 kids and families to Sparks for a day of fun. Went hiking, contracted with Inyo County to teach rock climbing, presentations on drugs and alcohol, positive interactions with good adult role models.
- We use flyers, word of mouth to get word out to promote the program.

**B. Review of Need for Continuation of Local Emergency**

(Leslie Chapman, Ingrid Braun) - On January 31, 2017 the Mono County Sheriff declared a state of local emergency as a result of extreme winter weather. The Board of Supervisors ratified this declaration on February 7, 2017, and



further declared a continuing state of emergency. Mono County Code Section 2.60.080 requires that the Board of Supervisors review the need for continuing the local emergency every 14 days, and Government Code section 8630 requires that the Board review the need at least every 30 days until it is terminated. This item is provided for that purpose.

**Action:** Review need for continuing the local emergency. If Board determines that need no longer exists, direct staff to prepare a declaration terminating local emergency.

**Ingrid Braun, Sheriff:**

- Every 14 days we will need to review. This can continue until we say we are done, unknown at this time. Emergency conditions may include spring runoff and rains.

Board consensus to continue local emergency.

### C. General Plan Amendments

Departments: CDD

PUBIC HEARING: 10:00 A.M.

(Gerry Le Francois and Nick Criss) - Conduct a public hearing on General Plan Amendment 17-01, Part A and Part B (originally identified as 16-00020). Following the public hearing and discussion, adopt Resolution 17-20 approving addenda to the 2015 General Plan Final Environmental Impact Report and adopting General Plan Amendment 17-01 Part A, Annual Update and Part B, Land Use Element Chapter 25 Revisions Regarding Transient Rentals (originally identified as 16-00020).

The 2015 General Plan Final Environmental Impact Report is too large to attach and can be accessed at the following link:

<https://monocounty.ca.gov/planning/page/general-plan-eir>

**Action:** Adopt proposed resolution adopting approving Addendum to 2015 Environmental Impact Report and adopting General Plan Amendment 17-01, with the following changes: (1) Part A of the general plan only shall be adopted; and (2) where fire sprinkler requirements for accessory dwelling units are discussed add parenthetical (attached or detached)

**R17-20**

**Stump moved; Johnston seconded**

**Vote: 5 yes; 0 no**

**Gerry LeFrancois:**

- Went through the recommended action. Went through the staff report, explained what each point means and its intent. Outlined each parcel affected by this plan amendment, how the county acquired each, zoning, current use, any restrictions.
- A proposed change in the general plan that has county wide ramifications should come from Planning Commission or Board, not special interest groups.

Board asked questions of clarification.

**Nick Criss:**

- Discussed Part B and history on Transient Rentals. TRODs have been discussed since 2009, Chpt 25 and 26 which established an overlay process to allow Transient Rentals in certain areas. In 2015 the Board directed Planning Commission to rework Chpt 25.

## PUBLIC HEARING OPEN

### Comments on Part A

No one spoke.

### Comments on Part B

#### **Dorothy Burdette, June Lake:**

- Concerned this sets a precedent for the County. June Lake has their own plan. Concerned that not enough people know about it. Thinks just a notice in the paper is unfair, each property owner should be notified individually.

#### **Supervisor Peters:**

- Mentioned the large amount of people who come to the RPAC meetings, community meetings.

#### **Supervisor Stump:**

- He did his own outreach to his district through his own email lists, those meetings were not well attended. Not a big issue in District 2. Has since received 3 letters in favor of Type 2 occupancy, 1 letter opposing.

#### **Supervisor Gardner:**

- The work plan for the June Lake district does include reaching out to each homeowner. Feels the work plan is very thorough in making everyone aware of the plan.

#### **Supervisor Corless:**

- This has already been in place, this is just a refinement of a process that's already been completed.

#### **Stacey Simon:**

- A resident cannot conduct transient rentals in a residential zone unless Chpt 25 is in place.

## PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

### Board Discussion on Part A:

#### **Supervisor Peters:**

- For Part A, there was an exhaustive process in the Antelope Valley. Resulted in a satisfactory resolution in how to move forward. Ongoing management still needs to be addressed, but believes the community supports this going forward.

#### **Supervisor Stump:**

- Supports part A, but would like to see fire sprinkler language to clarify.
- Fire depts have no authority, not within their jurisdiction to require. Need consistency among fire depts.. Wants to strengthen language to say if the main structure is not required to have fire sprinklers, the detached structure should not be required. Residential above garages is different.

#### **Wendy Sugimura:**

- Detached structures would not be required to have fire sprinklers but they are encouraged.

General board discussion, questions and answers from Staff. For the full discussion, please refer to the video link on the County website at:

Board consensus is Supportive of part A; sever A and B

### **Continuing Part B for later today**

Part B discussion:

#### **Supervisor Johnston:**

- Measure Z was established in Mammoth Lakes through a huge amount of controversy. Part B says every parcel is being applied to Transient Rentals. Feels part B requires every homeowner to be on the defensive at all times, requires the homeowner to go to hearings to fight this on a regular basis. Feels this is the wrong way to approach this. Feels certain areas are suitable, but some are not. This should not apply to all areas of the county. Wants to continue the moratorium.

**Supervisor Stump:**

- At the RPAC meeting he held, staff presented their interpretation which did not include June Lake. The multi-family units in Crowley are not covered by this ordinance. Multiple use areas are not covered under these chapters. Multi family is a different density, also not covered; but not excluded from applying for transient rental permits. Original ordinance for short term rentals did not address multi use. Only letter of opposition he's received stated no opposition to owner occupied rentals. Not hearing resistance to type 1 short term rentals. Agrees type 2 needs additional work. Aware that June Lake is still a work in progress.

**Supervisor Corless:**

- More time is needed for Part B.

**Leslie Chapman:**

- Suggested bringing this item back next week, along with the possibility of extending the moratorium

**Supervisor Peters:**

- People who have type 1 rentals who want to do the right thing, not interested in continuing a moratorium to make those responsible owners readdress their issues.

**Supervisor Gardner:**

- The work plan June Lake has is a good one, and includes exhaustive contact with property owners and citizens. Makes sure those who are concerned have the opportunity to speak to the issue. We should be very clear with all the requirements and recommendations for this issue. Asked CSAC for a matrix to show different counties and their policies but has not received it yet.

This part of the item is being continued to next week with the option to continue the moratorium per Supervisor Stump.

## **D. Presentation on Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep**

(CA DFW staff and USFWS staff) - Presentation by CA DFW and USFWS regarding Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Recovery efforts.

**Action:** None (informational only). Provide any desired direction to staff.

**Erin Nordin, USFWS:**

First half of power point will be about their conservation efforts for Bighorn sheep and where we are in recovery.

- Distribution of Bighorn Sheep in North America, decline in numbers from 1850 to 2012
- Domestic sheep grazing in Tuolumne Meadows
- Distribution of Bighorn Sheep
- Recovery program and objective
- Reintroductions
- Disease transmission

**Tom Stephenson, Program Leader Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Recovery, CDFW:**

- Species has been in SN for 300k years
- Winter and summer ranges
- Consequences of contact between Bighorn and domestic sheep

- Mechanisms of contact
- Funding

Board questions:

**Supervisor Johnston:**

- Wonderful effort. Risk assessment slide question.

**Tom Stephenson:**

- Explained how the maps of habitat ranges are created using GPS data from animals that are collared. Bighorn also travel outside predicted areas. If a disease outbreak occurs, there's no way to go back. We are trying to come up with a scientifically valid method to predict where the highest likelihood of disease transmission may occur.
- Conway and Matley Ranches have been identified as high risk since early 2000s.
- Goal is recovery, achieve numbers and maintain those levels for 7 years without intervention. Monies spent here could be spent elsewhere if recovery were achieved. Get the recovery unit fully populated. Could downlist the animal off the endangered species list

**Supervisor Peters:**

- When did these two ranches become high risk and why

**Supervisor Corless:**

- If the danger of risk were mitigated, what's the future?

**Supervisor Johnston:**

- Questions about the experiments with contact.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Benny Romero

Marianne Leinassar, FIM, current lessee on Conway Ranch

Louis Test, FIM

Floyd Rathbun, FIM

Max Symonds

Tim Hansen

Lady in Mammoth

John in Bridgeport

Abagael Giles, The Sheet

For full coverage of this discussion, please refer to the video on the Board's website.

10. **OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

**No one spoke.**

11. **CLOSED SESSION**

THERE WAS NOTHING TO REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

A. **Closed Session--Human Resources**

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. Government Code Section 54957.6. Agency designated representative(s): Stacey Simon, Leslie Chapman, Dave Butters, Janet Dutcher, and Anne Larsen. Employee Organization(s): Mono

County Sheriff's Officers Association (aka Deputy Sheriff's Association), Local 39--majority representative of Mono County Public Employees (MCPE) and Deputy Probation Officers Unit (DPOU), Mono County Paramedic Rescue Association (PARA), Mono County Public Safety Officers Association (PSO), and Mono County Sheriff Department's Management Association (SO Mgmt). Unrepresented employees: All.

**B. Closed Session - Existing Litigation**

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION. Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code section 54956.9. Name of case: Czeschin v. County of Mono; administrative citation appeal (Mono County Superior Court Case No. CV 170001).

**C. Closed Session - Real Property Negotiations**

CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS. Government Code section 54956.8. Property: Sierra Center Mall, Mammoth Lakes. Agency negotiators: Leslie Chapman, Janet Dutcher, Tony Dublino, Stacey Simon. Negotiating parties: Mono County and Highmark Mammoth Investments, LLC. Under negotiation: Price and terms of payment.

**12. REGULAR AGENDA - AFTERNOON**

**A. Direction to Staff re Conway Ranch Request for Grazing Proposals**

Departments: Public Works; CAO

(Tony Dublino) - Presentation by Tony Dublino regarding potential issuance by County of a Request for Proposals for Grazing at Conway Ranch.

**Action:** Receive presentation and provide direction to staff regarding the issuance of an RFP for grazing on Conway Ranch.

Do not direct staff to prepare an RFP – allow current grazing lease to expire without subsequent lease in place. Do not direct staff to prepare an RFP – allow current grazing lease to expire without subsequent lease in place. Do not seek grazing proposals from sheep operators at this time and seek alternative management approaches including managing for conservation, or sale of the property.

**Peters moved; Stump seconded, add ask staff to continue to explore other potential management, sale, or conservation opportunities: Peters said no, Stump withdrew his second.**

**Johnston moved; Stump seconded**

**Vote: 3 yes; 1 no: Peters**

**M17-55**

**Supervisor Gardner:**

- He is recusing himself. He is the President of Eastern Sierra Land Trust, and has consulted with FPPC, they have recommended he recuse himself.

**Stacey Simon:**

- This is based on an abundance of caution. We have asked for a written opinion from the commission.

**Tony Dublino:**

- Thank you to the Board for being willing to hear this and give staff direction. Staff report gives a brief history. They have received several letters from interested parties. Today is just to answer what we should do moving forward to draft an RFP or direct staff.

**Supervisor Corless:**

- This is only to give staff direction on whether to issue an RFP or not.

**Marianne Leinassar, FIM Corp:**

- Lease has been a part of our operations since 2000. FIM takes care of the land, irrigates it, doesn't trample the land. They don't get the full water right so it takes longer to push it over the land. They don't overgraze; come in with about 600 head, leave with about 800. Sheep are good for that area, cattle would need more fencing. There may be issues with deer and sage grouse with more fencing. They help the fisheries with their projects.

**Louis Tesr, FIM Corp:**

- Has been active in the Bighorn Sheep program for 30 years, grazing Conway for 17 years; no incidents of disease transmission. Not asking to exclude sheep, or exclude cattle, but look at the RFPs. Hoping the Supervisors will do what's best for that property regardless of the threats they're receiving.

**Stacey Simon:**

- CEQA model is the same we use for any private activity within Mono County. Her understanding there was no CEQA performing in association with the prior RFP. The county is lead agency, it is the funding of the lead agency's costs that are passed on.

**Jake Franklin, Franklin Conservation:**

- The Bighorn will not be downlisted as long as there are sheep on Conway.
- This is one of the highest roadkill spots on 395. The same fences used to keep wildlife out will interfere with migration. On Conway, it would hard for sheep to escape. Those fences have not been adapted for sage grouse. Those fences need to be upgraded to appropriate fences. Submitted a letter of interest, focus more on preserving Conway more for conservation interests. 150-200 stock or cattle, at 300-600 pounds. Young, not standing in water, interested in eating and growing only.

**Supervisor Stump:**

- Read Karen Ferrell-Ingram's letter into the record.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Suzanna Danner: opposes sheep grazing

Cole Hawkins, PhD: opposes any RFP

Virginia Chadwick: opposes sheep grazing

Paula Williams: opposes sheep grazing

Ted Williams: opposes sheep grazing

Gary Nelson: opposes any RFP

Duncan King: opposes sheep grazing

Terry McLaughlin: opposes sheep grazing

Ann Tozier: opposes sheep grazing

Margaret Eissler: opposes sheep grazing

Carolyn Crawford Davis: opposes sheep grazing

Ilene Mandelbaum: opposes sheep grazing

Sally Miller: opposes sheep grazing

Lisa Cutting: opposes sheep grazing

Lynn Boulton: opposes sheep grazing  
Lee Ann Carranzo, USFWS: opposes sheep grazing  
From Mammoth:  
Fran Hunt: opposes sheep grazing  
Nathan Reade, Ag Commissioner: supports grazing

#### **BOARD DISCUSSION:**

##### **Supervisor Stump:**

- Many letters were received, only one was pro-domestic sheep grazing. All the rest were against sheep grazing, many also against cattle grazing. None of the organizations have suggested compensation for the company that may be losing their livelihood.
- The disease transmission has been accepted by the courts.
- First responsibility is fiscal. He takes the threats of lawsuits very seriously. The Center for Biological Diversity has said they will sue if we continue grazing and we do not have the money to fight a lawsuit. Feels it's time for the county to move away from Conway Ranch. Purchased by the County to prevent a development, which with the Conservation Easement is done. Other goal was to raise fish; that lawsuit was settled and has increased our liability insurance to \$70k per year. That money could be better spent in our parks, fish purchases, or cemeteries.
- A. direct staff to look to someone else to operate or sell the Ranch. B. Willing to release an RFP for cattle grazing. Liability and cost is too great.
- The county did ask for Letters of Interest, thinks we should follow through with the cattle option.
- Does not want to extend grazing and dedicate County resources to defending a lawsuit.

##### **Supervisor Peters:**

- Should be about the future management of Conway Ranch. Recommends option 3. Doesn't think it's been fully vetted to put out an RFP for cattle.
- Suggested to come back with discussion for long term strategy for Conway, figure out how to be a good partner in the Bighorn recovery.

##### **Supervisor Johnston:**

- Would like to have seen the option for grazing cattle better vetted.
- Saw "Counting the Sheep" film. Got into discussions about the disease transmissions. How do you separate these two species? Looked into different types of fencing. Someone else needs to pay for the types of fencing he believes would work, the county cannot fund it.
- County cannot continue to fund this project, needs to sell the property. We are not in a position to run this property anymore.
- Perhaps allow FIM to graze for a few more years to allow them to phase out of the location?

##### **Supervisor Corless:**

- Agrees we cannot pursue sheep grazing anymore. Actions today could be perceived as positive.
- Would like to pursue selling the property. Perhaps short term cattle grazing would be okay, but would rather give direction to staff to look into selling the property for wildlife conservation to manage for irrigation and habitat.

##### **Stacey Simon:**

- RFP is a lease or license. Contracting for management would not require an RFP

##### **Tony Dublino:**

- Suggested language be added that definitively ends sheep grazing on the ranches.

## **B. State Transportation Funding Legislation Update**

Departments: Public Works - Roads

(Garrett Higerd) - Two competing bills have been introduced in the California state legislature to address the transportation funding crisis that has been worsening over recent years. Draft letters have been prepared in support of both bills and attached for consideration.

**Action:** Receive update on SB 1 (Beall) & AB 1 (Frazier) the "Transportation Funding and Reform Act" and AB 496 (Fong) the "Traffic Relief and Road Improvement Act". Approval of a letter of support for SB 1 (Beall) & AB 1 (Frazier) the "Transportation Funding and Reform Act".

**Johnston moved; Stump seconded**

**Vote: 5 yes; 0 no**

**M17-56**

**Supervisor Stump:**

- The Local Transportation Commission, along with the town, supported the Beall/Frazier bill. Would support having the Fong bill brought back to the LTC later.

**Supervisor Gardner:**

- Would not support the Fong bill.

**Janet Dutcher:**

- Monies were earmarked elsewhere: does not believe the Fong Bill is sustainable.

**Supervisor Peters:**

- Needs more information for 496

**Supervisor Johnston:**

- Cannot support the Fong bill right now.

### **C. Request for Letter of Support for AB174**

Departments: Public Works - Roads

(Garrett Higerd) - Assemblyman Bigelow, along with a bipartisan coalition, introduced AB 174, which requires one voting member of the California Transportation Commission to reside in a county with a population of less than 100,000. Currently, the California Transportation Commission consists of 11 voting members. There are no requirements to fill these positions. This bill will ensure the voices of small, rural California counties are heard and will give our communities a needed seat at the table. This item is sponsored by Supervisor Johnston.

**Action:** Approve proposed letter of support for AB174 and authorize Chair to sign on behalf of the County.

**Johnston moved; Gardner seconded**

**Vote: 5 yes; 0 no**

**M17-57**

**ADJOURN at 5:50**

**ATTEST**



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**STACY CORLESS**  
**CHAIR OF THE BOARD**

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**HELEN NUNN**  
**ASSISTANT CLERK OF THE BOARD**